

25 July 1996

Friday July 26 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Czech CR 1.00
Albania L 225	Indonesia Rp 1,700	Danish Kr 8.00
Australia A\$ 1.60	Italy L 1,936	Deutsche M 1.46
Bahamas B\$ 2.00	Japan Y 143.50	Dracma Dr 200
Bangladesh T 10.00	Kenya KSh 100	Euro E 1.66
Belgium Bf 36.00	Latvia Ls 4.00	Guinean Fr 100
Bolivia Bs 13.00	Lithuania Lt 2.00	Israeli N 4.00
Brazil R\$ 1,500	Malta M 3.66	Japanese Y 143.50
Canada C\$ 1.50	Monaco M 1,000	Korean W 1,000
Chad CFA 200	Netherlands G 1.80	Malaysian M 4.00
Cuba C\$ 20	Norway Kr 8.00	Mexican P 20
Czechia CZK 20	Poland Z 4.00	Niger Fr 200
Danish Dkr 8.00	Portugal Esc 200	Philippine P 50
East Germany M 1.00	Romania Lei 100	Polish Z 4.00
France F 6.55	Slovakia SK 20	Russian R 50
Germany DM 1.00	Slovenia T 200	Saudi S 2.00
Greece Dr 340	Spain P 166.64	Swedish S 10
Guatemala Q 5.00	Switzerland F 7.20	Taiwan NT 20
Guinea Fr 100	Turkey L 1,500	Thai B 50
Guinea-Bissau G 100	USA \$ 1.63	US Dollar 1.00
Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Yugoslavia D 100	Yugoslavia D 100
India Rs 40	Zimbabwe Z\$ 5.00	Zimbabwe Z\$ 5.00

# The Guardian

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Hollywood and life on death row  
**Review**  
Plus: Why it's OK to like Wagner;  
R D Laing; James Dean

## Europe sends back £500m

### Huge underspend boosts tax hopes

John Palmer in Brussels and Larry Elliott

THE Government's beleaguered Euro-enthusiasts received a much-needed boost last night when Brussels revealed that a massive underspend last year will allow it to pay back more than £500 million into Treasury coffers.

The windfall — part of a £7 billion repayment to all 15 European Union members — will allow the Government's finances and help cushion spending departments from reductions deemed necessary

to ensure pre-election budget tax cuts.

While the European Commission decision will make it easier for Germany and France to achieve the tough conditions for monetary union, it will also allow the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke — the Cabinet's leading pro-European — to mount a counter-offensive against the increasingly vocal Euro-sceptic wing of his party.

The repayment will offset at least half the £1 billion cost this year of cutting cattle after the BSE scare, and will be exploited to dampen anti-European sentiment following this week's resignation of the Treasury Minister, David Heathcoat-Amory.

Although Britain was at one time the second-largest net contributor to the EU budget, it is now one of the smallest, partly because Britain is one of the poorest countries in the EU.

The decision by Brussels to repay about 10 per cent of the annual EU budget could be followed by a further bonanza next year if, as expected, the EU continues to spend well below its permitted ceiling.

The underspend reflects reforms in the Common Agricultural Policy, and the virtual disappearance of Europe's food surpluses. In addition, economic aid to eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has been less than forecast.

Spending on the poorer EU regions has also declined, because governments have not been able to match EU funding. Although unspent money has been returned in past years, the underspend last year was much bigger than in any previous year.

Germany and France — by far the largest net contributors to the EU budget — will gain most from the repayment of EU funds.

Both governments want every cent saved in Brussels returned to them," a Commission official said yesterday. "This repayment could make a significant contribution to EU governments trying to meet the Maastricht treaty criteria on lower budget deficits next year to ensure they can join the move to a single European currency in 1999."

Usually, Germany and Britain are in a minority when pushing for budget reductions. This year they have been joined by other EU countries anxious to show they will be able to reduce their budget deficits sufficiently next year to qualify when the selection for the single currency is made early in 1998.

"The simple truth is that everyone's top priority now is to be in shape for monetary union, and this is showing up in the debate about European Union spending," a senior German diplomat said. "We may have to go through this budget trauma for a year or two before we can look again at longer-term spending plans for the European Union."

Confirmation of the big repayment came as EU budget ministers debated the 1996 budget. Although the Commission has proposed an overall 3 per cent increase in spending for 1997, most EU governments are insisting on a freeze in the £85 billion budget.

A freeze could mean severe cutbacks in promised spending on social policy, energy development, consumer protection, the environment and development aid. Any such reductions are certain to be opposed by European Parliament members, although governments say expenditure levels will hardly be affected precisely because spending remains well below levels set in the budget.

### Short loses out as Blair tightens grip

Michael White Political Editor

TONY BLAIR last night tightened his white-knuckled grip on Labour's shadow cabinet when he ignored the collective verdict of backbench MPs on their performance in order to manoeuvre fellow modernisers into key positions and push leftwinger Clare Short out of the limelight.

As Ms Short was demoted from the high-profile transport portfolio to overseas development — despite her strong third place showing in Wednesday's "quickie" shadow elections — two key Blairites, Harriet Harman and Chris Smith, swapped briefs, Ms Harman taking on social security, and Mr Smith health.

It prompted some MPs to claim that Mr Smith had paid the price of his defence of child benefit and other aspects of universal social security entitlements from Gordon Brown's desire to target some payments in favour of the poorest. The leader's office said the change was to allow both MPs to develop the campaigning dimension of their new posts.

There was no immediate confirmation that Ms Short made her a target of Tory Fleet Street, spent much of the day trying to hang on to transport. But she ended it with what looked like a consolation prize, membership of a new committee on the sensitive topic of welfare-to-work, chaired by Mr Blair himself.

"Clare's been stitched up," complained one MP.

"But others who recalled policy wrangles in Tony's shadow cabinet argued she was in the wrong job, too technical for a broad-brush operator like Clare. She will do well at overseas development." The post was held by Joan Leston until she stepped down for health reasons.

Given Ms Short's remarks on tax, the need for a debate on legalising cannabis and other issues, more alarming to spin doctors than to many voters, many MPs may judge the move prudent.

Two days ago, she walked out of a live TV interview when she was asked about Labour's attitude to the London Underground strike. She said she was there to talk about another topic. The official line last night was that the real privatisation formula had now been revealed, and Mr Blair could be regarded as the leader-like and admired her.

The one counter-cyclical shift in the Labour leader's limited reshuffle was promotion of a leftwing ex-minister, Michael Meacher, to handle the fashionable issue of environmental protection, leaving David Blunkett in sole charge of education and employment, and Frank Dobson with other environmental issues, plus London.

There were no other changes — at elected shadow cabinet level.

But some backbench eyebrows were raised at Mr Blair's appointment of Alison Darling, one of the shadow cabinet runners-up who did not stand this week — at the leadership's behest — to shadow chief secretary in Mr Brown's team.

The air of "Tony's favourites getting promotion," as one senior MP put it, was reinforced by the switch from Treasury team to transport of another unselected loyalist, Andrew Smith, MP for Oxford East.

Another patronage appointment which backbenchers promised to "watch very carefully" was that of the maverick welfare expert, Frank Field, chairman of the all-party Commons social security select committee, to Mr Blair's work-to-welfare panel. Mr Blunkett said Mr Brown will also be members.

Ms Harman had campaigned on the importance of her work in health, and had given no sign that she expected to be moved, despite her 19th place out of 19 in the shadow election after controversy about the choice of secondary school for her son.

### Pupils bid farewell to murdered Caroline



Children carry flowers into St Mary Magdalen Church at Lameston, Cornwall, yesterday for the funeral of Caroline Dickinson, 13, who was raped and murdered at Pieve-Fornigere, near St Malo, during a school trip.

### Airline fined £150,000 over near-disaster

Keith Harper Transport Editor

AN AIRLINE was yesterday fined £150,000, with £25,000 costs, after pleading guilty to negligently endangering life following a lapse in maintenance procedures which could have killed 183 holiday-makers on one of its jets.

The case against British Midland was the first prosecution against a scheduled airline by the Civil Aviation Authority, which is responsible for regulatory control.

It arose after the crew of a British Midland Boeing 747, bound for Lanzarote in February of last year, was forced to make an emergency landing at Luton within minutes of take-off when both engines almost lost their oil.

At Luton crown court, Judge Daniel Rodwell said he was imposing the high penalty not only as a punishment for "criminal lapse," but to "make clear to the industry that any cutting of corners is simply not worth the candle."

The oil leak had been caused by "a crass act of negligence" by a fitter who had failed to replace engine covers after maintenance checks.

An engineering supervisor then compounded the error by failing to run the engines after the test.

The men, who were not named in court, were said to have been dismissed. The judge said: "It is only through the vigilance and skill of the pilot and his crew that the dramatic sudden loss of oil pressure was noticed and the aircraft was able to land safely at Luton."

"Had they not noticed, the engine would very shortly after have, if not seized, then suffered such a dramatic loss of power that the aircraft would have crashed, with a high probability of killing everyone on board."

The company had maintained that the failures of the fitter and the engineer had been "unforeseeable." It had argued in mitigation that BM had done everything possible since the incident to comply with the CAA's requirements. But the judge said that BM's actions since the incident did not change its earlier failures.

The air accidents investigation branch of the Department of Transport congratulated the aircraft crew. In a report published yesterday, it said that throughout the emergency they had "coped exceptionally well with an unusual and potentially catastrophic emergency."

BM's deputy chairman, John Wolfe, later said that the company accepted the court's findings. Since the incident, two senior managers had left the company and three new managers had been taken on as part of the restructuring of the engineering division.

The pilot of the Boeing, Barney Reichman, aged 43, who has 18 years' experience at BM, said at a press conference last night: "We needed to get the aircraft down as soon as we could."

His first action had been to plan a diversion with the help of air traffic control by bringing the aircraft down to Luton.

"Once I got that under way, we were able to consider what we were up against. Things unfolded after that which confirmed that we were up against this oil problem."

This is the second incident in a year involving a BM aircraft. Last January, a Fokker 70 plane overshoot the runway at East Midlands airport, near Nottingham, with 87 passengers on board. Nobody was hurt, and the plane halted 70 yards off the airstrip.

Close to the same airport in 1988, a BM Boeing 747 crashed on the M1 at Kegworth in Leicestershire, killing 47 people.

### Clare's shortcomings

- 1988: Resigns from Kinross's front bench over Labour's support for the Prevention of Terrorism Act.
- 1991: Resigns as social security spokeswoman over Gulf War policy.
- 1996: As transport spokeswoman, antagonises leadership with demand on TV for review of cannabis legislation.
- April 1996: Blows a hole in Labour's "underspend" tax policy by suggesting that middle-income earners such as herself could pay more tax.
- July 1996: Walks out of TV interview after refusing to comment on Tube strikes.



MICHAEL Portillo, the Deputy Prime Minister, called a £4 billion deal for new dance orders, claiming it secured 5,000 jobs.

The deal was brokered by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who mediated between Mr Portillo and Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, who was reluctant to commit such a large sum.

Ian Lang, Trade and Industry Secretary, and Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, agreed to sacrifice jobs in Scottish marginals for more in crucial English seats.

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2 NEWS

Sketch

Yorkshire: all wind, no water



Martin Wainwright

THE yellow-grass county of Yorkshire may be chronically short of water...

ing shareholders, Mr Gough began to answer the last question by the way he dealt with the first two...

£4bn weapons deal brings peace to warring Cabinet and promises jobs and votes in Tory marginals

Heseltine ends MoD fight



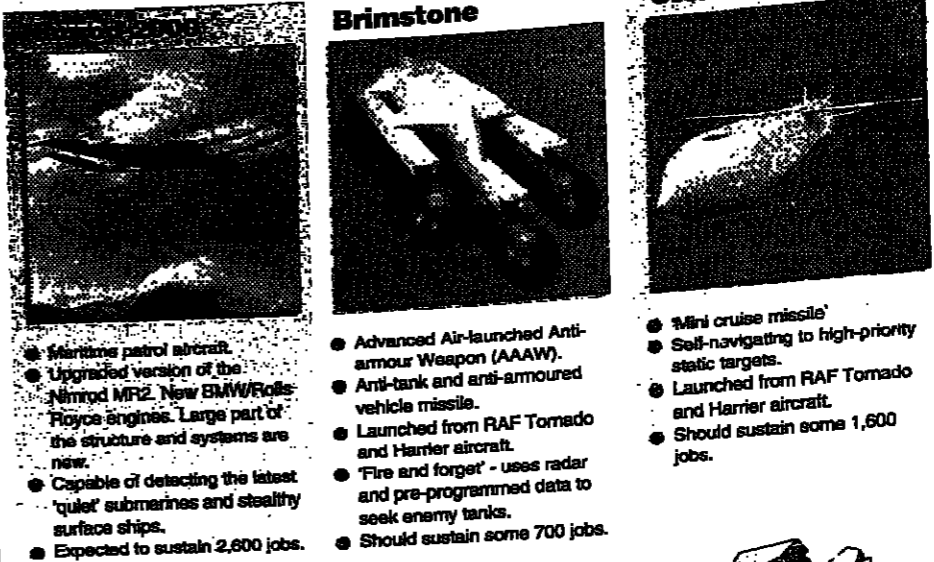
Ministers divided on spending: Michael Portillo (above) and Kenneth Clarke

FIVE THOUSAND jobs in the defence industry were saved last night when Michael Heseltine brokered a £4 billion deal for new orders between warring Cabinet colleagues...

Ministry of Defence that early expenditure on the new weapons orders — the refurbished Nimrod, cruise and anti-tank missiles — would be accommodated within the agreed public spending totals for this year and next.

Defence deal

Contracts to build two new missile systems and to rebuild the Nimrod surveillance aircraft have been awarded to British-based companies in a deal worth some £2.5bn over ten years, securing 5,000 jobs around the country.



Storm Shadow

Where the jobs are. Map of the UK showing job locations for Storm Shadow, Brimstone, and Nimrod 2000.

First night

'Comedy' bears strange fruit

Michael Billington

Troilus and Cressida Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford upon Avon

AN Judge is the Royal Shakespeare Company's specialist in feel-good comedy. But how, one wondered, would he tackle that splendidly hilarious cynic's fiasco, Troilus and Cressida?

into womanly maturity which is sidetracked when she is cruelly traded for a Greek. The great scene when she is ardently besieged by Diomedes is played on a note of tremulous uncertainty which climaxes in a heart-rending cry of "Troilus", followed by a swift and abrupt "farewell."

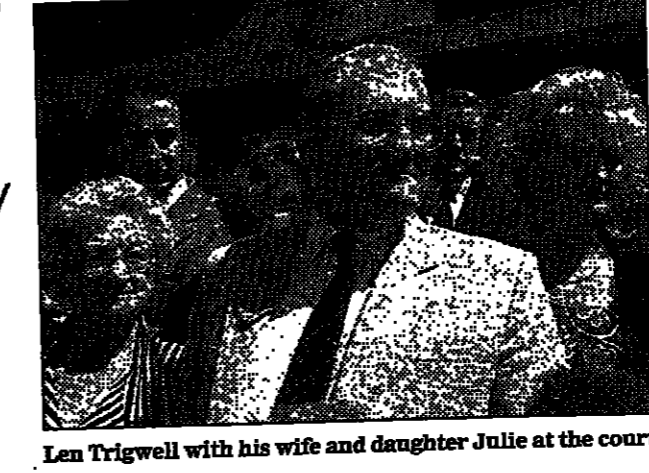
Nationwide rate cut turns the screw on banks

Ian Wylie

THE mortgage price war between banks and building societies intensified yesterday when the Nationwide building society cut its standard variable rate by 0.25 per cent to 6.49 per cent — but the society's savers are likely to pay the price.

Life for private eye's killer wife

'Cold-hearted' woman's lack of emotion at inquest was give-away in case of 'gruesome' contract killing which was set up in South Africa



Len Trigwell with his wife and daughter Julie at the court

PRIVATE investigator's wife, who hired two hitmen to bludgeon her husband to death, was imprisoned for murder.

quest into her husband's death. Detective Superintendent Ken Evans, who led the murder inquiry, after the trial described the three times married Mrs Trigwell as "a very callous, cold-hearted woman. In the courtroom, she showed no emotion at all. This was remarked upon by the defence lawyer, who said she was very emotional times, but there was not a flicker of emotion on her face throughout."

£200m emergency plan to ease crowding in prison

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

A £200 MILLION emergency prison building programme was announced yesterday to improve security and to cope with a rapid rise in the jail population trig-

gered by Michael Howard's "prison funded" policy. It will be partly funded by cuts in compensation payments to victims of violent crime.

Nose drops offer migraine sufferers cheap, instant relief

Ian Katz in New York

MILD, easily administered anaesthetic commonly used by dentists and for minor surgery may offer almost instant relief to millions of migraine sufferers, according to new research by doctors in California.

graine drug, costs £20 and can trigger heart attacks in patients with heart problems. According to the study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 29 of the 58 patients treated with lignocaine said their headaches had improved by at least 50 per cent.

Other experts are not convinced. Earlier studies have shown that the effectiveness of the drug falls with repeated use. The effectiveness of the control group was also questioned because the lignocaine creates a numb feeling in the nose which makes it difficult to conceal from patients whether they have been given the drug or a placebo.

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1550

# Army ousts Burundi government

## Coup has led to fears of mass blood-letting, Chris McGreal in Bujumbura reports

**B**URUNDI'S mainly Tutsi army seized control of this violence-racked central African country yesterday, deposed the civilian coalition government which included moderate Hutus, and defied the outside world to do its worst.

"Burundi is not going to be colonised again. This is an independent country and we are not going to be governed by foreigners," an army spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Longin Mwanani, said as the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) condemned the coup and threatened intervention.

After criticising deep divisions within the Hutu-Tutsi coalition, and its inability to tackle the civil war, the military suspended the parliament and political parties.

It also took control of state radio, banned demonstrations and strikes, imposed a 7pm curfew, temporarily cut telephone links, and closed the airport and land borders. A former military dictator, Pierre Buyoya, was declared president.

Bursts of heavy gunfire echoed through the capital, Bujumbura, and armoured personnel carriers packed with troops rolled into the city centre.

Although the takeover was apparently bloodless, the instability that may follow could plunge the country into an intensified bout of blood-letting similar to that which produced genocide in Rwanda in 1994.

The defence minister, Firmin Nzoyireba, said the military had stepped in because the deposed president, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, had effectively resigned after seeking sanctuary in the American ambassador's residence on Wednesday because he feared assassination. The army said the former president would not be harmed if he left United States protection.

The OAU secretary-general, Salim Ahmed Salim, threatened military intervention, although he did not say who would lead it. "Any attempt to take over power through illegal means will not be accepted by Africa and will be met by military force."

The UN spokeswoman, Sylvia Foa, said: "The secretary-general [Boutros Boutros-Ghali] strongly urges all concerned to uphold the constitution and to bear in mind that the international community will on no account accept a change of government by force or other illegitimate means in Burundi."

Ms Foa said Mr Boutros-Ghali supported calls for a regional summit to be urgently convened to discuss ways of calming the situation.

Belgium and France both said last night that they were watching the situation closely but neither had any immediate plans to intervene. There are more than 300 Belgians in Burundi, 200 French, and 150 Britons, under Belgian consular protection.

Bujumbura's streets started to empty after lunch when state radio broadcast a warning to people to stay at home.

A grenade explosion sent people fleeing from the market. Soldiers appeared, telling people to get off the streets. International phone lines were cut, and military road-blocks were thrown up.

Shortly afterwards, the radio announced that the Tutsi prime minister, Antoine Ndirwayo, had resigned after his party ousted the ruling coalition and the administration had collapsed.

Although the army portrayed itself as having stepped in to save the situation, there is little doubt that senior officers conspired with the prime minister's mainly Tutsi Uprona party — the second-largest in the government and the real power in the administration.

Powerful elements of the army vigorously opposed a plan for a regional military force to subdue the slaughter of civilians by the largely Tutsi army and Hutu rebels. Uprona's withdrawal from the government provided the military with the pretext it needed to seize power.

But there were signs that the army itself is divided over the handling of the coup.

The defence minister said Major Buyoya had been named as interim president because he had tried to unite Burundians by permitting the first free election three years ago, which he lost. The winner, Burundi's first Hutu president, Melchior Ndayaye, was assassinated a few months later, sparking the civil war which has killed an estimated 150,000.

Major Buyoya would be more acceptable to Burundi's neighbours, and to some of the Hutu majority.

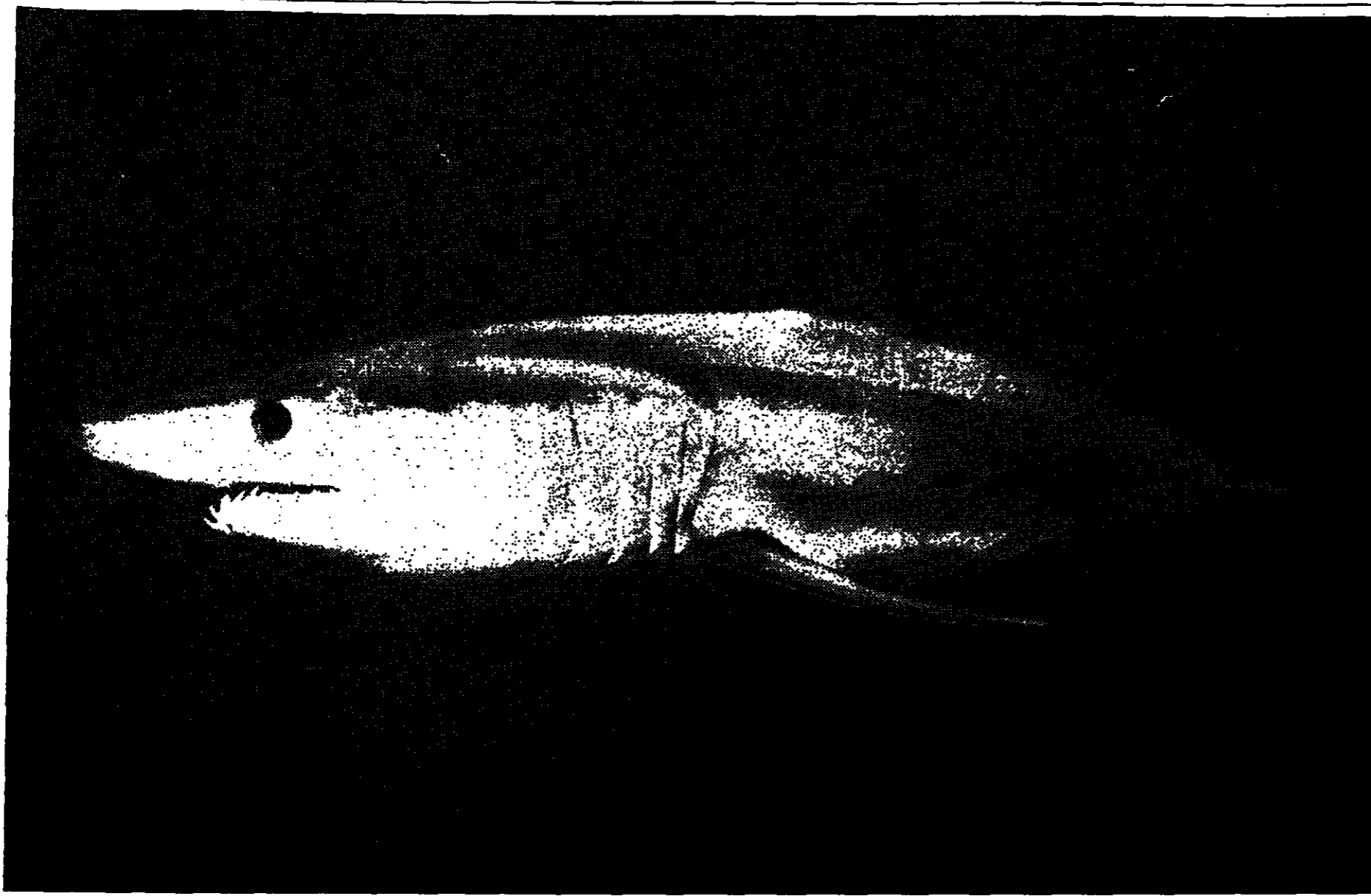
But the coup was immediately denounced by Maj Buyoya's arch rival — the man he overthrew in 1987, Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. Mr Bagaza said the coup would lead to serious violence because his supporters would not accept the new government.

Earlier in the day, Tutsi students had demonstrated, demanding a coup but denouncing Major Buyoya as too sympathetic to Hutus.

Mr Ntibantunganya was believed to be still sheltering in the American ambassador's residence last night. According to his aides, he sought US protection on Tuesday after he was warned by the army chief of staff that the military could not guarantee his safety. Earlier in the day, the president had been stoned by a mob of Tutsis at a mass funeral for victims of a massacre by Hutu rebels.

Most cabinet ministers from the deposed president's party have sought shelter in other Western missions.

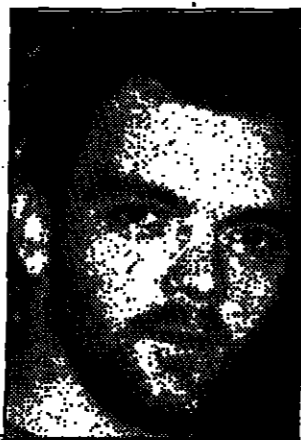
Creeping coup, page 6; Leader comment, page 8



A mako shark, the species believed to have been involved in the experience of Martin Richardson (below), although they have seldom attacked humans PHOTOGRAPH: MARTY SNYDERMAN

# 'Don't swim with dolphins'

## It could be the way to provoke an attack by sharks, warns expert



Stuart Millar on a Red Sea incident

**A**N EXPERT warned yesterday against swimming with dolphins after a British holidaymaker told how they had saved his life during a shark attack that left him needing more than 200 stitches.

Martin Richardson, aged 29, from Fordham, Essex, was diving in the Red Sea off Egypt's Sinai peninsula on Tuesday when the shark struck, biting the left side of his chest.

Ian Fergusson, director of the European Shark Research Bureau, said yesterday that Mr Richardson's attacker was probably a shortfin mako, a relative of the great white, which also frequents Cornish offshore waters during high summer. Makos have rarely been implicated in attacks.

Mr Fergusson warned that

swimming among dolphins may provoke shark attacks. "Dolphins are often prey to sharks in a number of regions worldwide," he said. "In my view, it is as mad as strolling around a waterhole in the Masai-Mara, surrounded by wildebeest, and not giving a damn about the risk from lions."

Thousands of people swim with dolphins every year in attractions used worldwide to promote resorts, although in some cases the dolphins are kept in controlled areas.

Describing the attack from the military hospital at al-Tur where he was subsequently taken, Mr Richardson said: "The shark punctured my lung and took a little piece of my rib with it and a few muscles. I didn't really feel any pain. It was more shock than anything else. It let go of me

and then it came back again. There was blood everywhere and I screamed for my friends in the boat to come and pick me up."

Mr Richardson said he did not see the shark until the second attack. "It bit under my left shoulder and that was about the worst of all. That one really ripped all my muscles."

"I saw the top of its head. I punched it with my right hand and it went away again and then it came back and took another bite out of me — a fleshy bite above my right nipple."

"I was struggling and screaming and then it went away again. I was waiting for it to come come and finish me off. For sure I thought I was a goner."

Although the boat did not reach Mr Richardson for another two minutes, the shark did not return for the kill. His friends believe he owes his life to three bottlenose dolphins.

They encircled Mr Richardson, flapping their fins and tails to scare away the shark — a defensive behaviour marine zoologists say is common for mothers trying to protect their calves from predators.

The dolphins continued to circle until Mr Richardson was pulled aboard the boat.

"I don't know what happened, it just didn't come back. Something stopped it. Whether it was the dolphins I don't know," he said.

He suffered at least four

bites to his shoulder, stomach and back, including one that slightly punctured a lung. Witnesses claimed that his beating heart was visible through the wounds.

Doctors said he received more than 200 stitches and may have to have a skin graft above his right nipple.

Although only one in three victims survive a shark attack, Mr Richardson is the second Briton to do so in the last four months. In March, Jean Hotchkiss, aged 47, from Warwickshire, underwent four hours of micro-surgery to save her left arm after she tore free from a tiger shark off Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

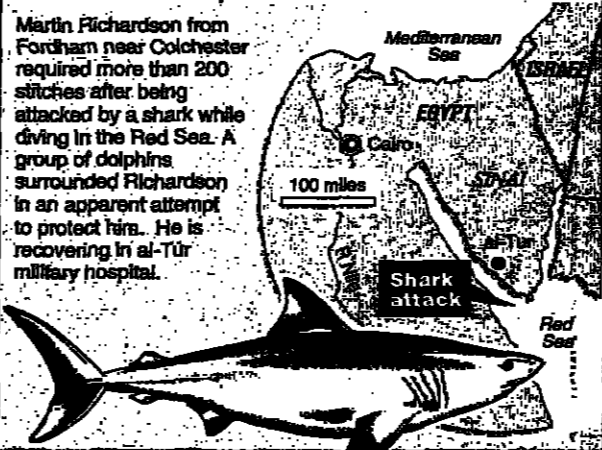
Only five or six out of 350 species of shark are known to attack swimmers. The most dangerous are the white, the bull, and the tiger species.

Figures for shark attacks are unreliable because tourist resorts are afraid to report incidents. According to the ESRR, about 80 attacks are reported worldwide each year, of which around 25 per cent are fatal. But in the Mediterranean, 45 of the 60 confirmed incidents since 1990 have been fatal, and probably the work of great whites.

White sharks hunt by getting to the least linear distance from their prey — often directly underneath — then swinging up vertically to hit the prey with so much force that it comes straight out of the water with the victim in its mouth.


## Saved by dolphins

Martin Richardson from Fordham near Colchester required more than 200 stitches after being attacked by a shark while diving in the Red Sea. A group of dolphins surrounded Richardson in an apparent attempt to protect him. He is recovering in al-Tur military hospital.



## Recent shark attacks

- **March 1996**: Jean Hotchkiss, from Warwickshire, undergoes surgery to save her left arm which was left with bits hanging off everywhere after a tiger shark attack in Australia.
- **January 1996**: A mako shark rams and shreds an Australian fishing boat, then circles the survivors, clinging to a tiny life raft, for nine hours.
- **September 1995**: Surfing champion Andrew Carter becomes the only man to survive a double attack by a great white, but his best friend is eaten alive. Carter's leg was bitten to the bone from hip to knee.
- **August 1995**: Fingers of a sleep, Olanoff, recaptured with a giant squid, which while an armoured diver is attacked by a 120lb shark called Awesome.
- **August 1995**: A 180 great white shark devours a man on the Sydney 400 miles north of Sydney while his bride watches in horror.
- **June 1995**: Thomas Cartwright dies in shark attack while diving off the coast of Tasmania.
- **March 1995**: Sharks eat at least 10 people whose boat capsized off the coast of Papua New Guinea.








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4 BRITAIN



# Families find refuge from hatred of the Ulster mobs

Peter Hetherington visits a Belfast hostel which is offering sanctuary to victims of sectarianism forced out of their homes

THEY wait nervously in a large, anonymous hostel — a haven of last resort — beside the enduring peace line separating two cultures. Thrown, or burned, out of their homes this month by baying mobs, the displaced families of Belfast can only reflect on the days before this month's marching season when Protestant and Catholic seemed on the friendliest of

want to know. They just looked the other way, ignored us." The mob didn't ignore the family for much longer. Dolores said: "I was making the children something to eat when there was this knock on the door. Two men with scarves over their faces appeared, with two cans of petrol. They said: 'We don't want Taigs in this area during the marching season. If you're not out in a hour we'll burn you out.' They wouldn't listen to reason." So the Catholic family, five children and three adults, left in two taxis and found their way to a hostel in West Bel-

Throughout the province so far this month, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive says that officially 211 families have been intimidated out of their homes compared with 22 in the whole of July last year. But many cases are probably not reported to the state agency, which is charged with finding accommodation for the homeless. This month the executive over £1 million in temporary accommodation, repairs, and compensation to displaced families who cannot sell their homes. "We didn't expect anything on this scale," said an official.

The West Belfast hostel is one of four funded by the agency in the city. John is careful not to blame loyalists or nationalists for the disturbances which cost his family a home. "The way I see it is that there is nothing to choose between both sides. It's fit for fat. They don't know what they want and it seems they have been waiting for an excuse to start something." Jackie said: "I just hope it happens to them, too, so they know what it's like to lose your home." Martina said: "When we went back to collect our furniture and possessions they were outside, laughing and shouting 'Fenian bastards'. They vandalised everything they could and stole a lot." Soon the executive hopes to rehouse many of the displaced families, secure inside segregated estates well away from areas once considered "mixed". The warden of the West Belfast hostel, born in West Cork, is in no doubt that the clock has been turned back. She is pessimistic. "It was wonderful around here recently — euphoric is the only word. But there is tension now. You can feel it. People think it is going to get worse."

## Magnetic energy harnessed in fight against depression

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent TREATMENT with magnetic currents can help people with severe depression, and could be a more gentle alternative to electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), neurologists say today. A group from Spain, led by Alvaro Pascual-Leon, gave rapid bursts of magnetic energy through the head to 17 pa-

tients with severe long-term depression which had not responded to drug treatment. Nine of the patients had had ECT. The doctors say in the Lancet that 11 of the 17 showed a marked improvement, although this only lasted for two weeks. The researchers, from Valencia, say that unlike ECT, the treatment is practically painless, does not require anaesthesia or induce seizures, and the risks and side effects are slight. They say it is too early to say the technique, called rapid-rate transcranial magnetic stimulation, or rTMS, should replace drugs or ECT, but further studies should be carried out. Under the procedure, a magnetic coil was placed on the scalp in one of three positions over the brain. Magnetic pulses were induced over a course of five sessions

## Delights of English pub fare were not unknown to pharaoh's men

Tim Radford Science Editor PHAROAH'S men probably tucked into a perfectly decent ploughman's lunch, according to a Cambridge scientist. Ancient Egyptians also carried bread and beer with them into their desert tombs to nourish them in the afterlife. Because of this, Delwen Samuel of the

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at Cambridge was able to gather a rough crumbs from around the sarcophagi and gunge from the bottom of mummies' beer flasks to discover how people baked and brewed in Nefertiti's kingdom on the Nile. She reports today in the US Journal Science that Egyptian bread had a dense crumb, thin crusts and was darker on top than underneath — a sign of baking. There were signs of chaff fragments, but some loaves were clean and fine textured. The Egyptians clearly knew about yeast, and fig and coriander tars were used in fruit loaves in some tombs. Beer, dating 3,000 years ago, turned out to be more sophisticated than anyone thought. Electron microscope study of the linings of beer

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## Oasis boss salutes Sex Pistols

Alex Bellos on a surprise £5,000 endorsement of a rival label's reformed punk heroes by the top Britpop group's multi-millionaire employer

OASIS, certainly one of the coolest bands in the world, also like to claim they are the biggest. But are they the best? It appears even they are having doubts. Alan McGee, manager of their record company, has taken the bizarre step of spending £5,000 on a newspaper advert saying that, in fact, the Sex Pistols are rather better. McGee, who discovered Oasis at a gig in Glasgow, was so stunned by the experience last week of seeing the reformed punk four-piece at London's Shepherd's Bush Empire that he took a full page ad out in this week's New Musical Express.

writer and not a man noted for his modesty. "Noel turned round half way through and said they are a lot better than us. That is some compliment." The Sex Pistols, the so-called godfathers of punk, reformed this year after a gap of 18 years. John Lydon, the lead singer now aged 40, told a press conference to launch a tour and live album that they were doing it to spare the public "all those trashy little pop stars you have got." The tour has been plagued with problems and mediocre reviews. Concerts in Madrid and Belfast were cancelled. A spokeswoman for the Sex Pistols, who are signed to Creation rivals Virgin, said they were shocked when they opened the NME and saw the ad. "Everybody said 'Wow, what's this?' We're not quite sure of Alex's motives." The ad is all the more peculiar given McGee's usual reluctance to deal with the media. He is one of the music industry's most powerful figures, yet until recently he had refused interviews for six years. He said he paid for the ad because he wanted to silence the Pistols' critics. "I probably have made too much money. But if you are going to be a multi-millionaire, you might as well enjoy it. If you are going to spend five grand you might as well do it in style." Creation released a solo album earlier this year by Glen Matlock, the Sex Pistol who was thrown out of the band to make way for Sid Vicious. Matlock is in the reformed Pistols, but McGee denied he was just indirectly promoting his own record. "It would be a bizarre marketing plan to spend money saying that another record company's artist is better than ours. I did the ad because the gig was genius, it was mega. It's as simple as that."

## Welsh singer takes America by storm with her debut single

Dan Gleister Arts correspondent YOUR starter for 10, pop pickers which British artist has the fastest climbing record on the American singles chart? Eric Clapton, at number six with Change The World? Wrong. The answer is I Love You Always Forever by Welsh singer-songwriter Donna Lewis. Her debut single, currently at number 13 on the US top 100, is tipped to enter the top 10 following appearances on the top-rated David Letterman and Jay Leno television shows. "Oh my God, that's something to look forward to," she

says, speaking appropriately enough from Woodstock in upstate New York. The Cardiff-born singer, who modestly gives her age as "thirtysomething", first went to the US three years ago, taking her demo tapes around record companies after having little luck in Britain. Several people showed an interest, but she returned to Britain empty-handed to continue singing in a piano bar. "I also did piano bar work in Scandinavia. I used to say to people 'I'm not the normal piano bar person. I would do covers of Prince and Kate Bush. Now I say to myself that I better keep my hand in because you never know what might happen.'" She was saved from the piano bar when someone from Atlantic Records in New York heard her demo. That was when her problems began. "They wanted to contact me but the person who had the demo wouldn't give them my phone number. They were on the point of hiring a private detective to try to find me when a friend told me they had been hassling him to get my number." That was two years ago. In the interim Lewis has clashed with her producer, who did not share her idea of how her music should sound, before ending up co-producing her album with Kevin Killen, who has worked with Kate Bush, U2 and Elvis Costello.

## Scientists claim milestone in repairing spinal cords

Tim Radford Science Editor A CLAIM by scientists in Taiwan and Sweden that they have been able to repair the severed spinal cords of rats has been hailed by a New York neurosurgeon as "the first evidence that true functional regeneration can occur

in the adult spinal cord". The news — reported today in the US journal Science — offers hope for paraplegics of a kind nobody could have dreamed of a decade ago. The experiment, by Henrich Cheng who works at both of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and a veterans' hospital in Taipei, and Lars Olson of Stockholm, involved the removal of five millimetres from the spinal cord of adult rats. The scientists experimented with nerve implants to bridge the gap and found that things worked better the more they used. The result was, says Wise Young of New York university medical centre, "a milestone". The rats were able to move their hind legs. Recovery was limited: the rats were only able to stand and support their weight. It could be a long time before the research helps humans. Experts in centres for spinal injury are still concentrating on mechanical and electronic aids to help paraplegics, and testing electrical wiring to carry impulses to the muscles below the injury.

Helping for children

UK to fight VA

Dentists please

rejects

fine

Turner to lead

Apology

T

Handwritten note: 15.50

News in brief

Helpline offer for children

A 24-HOUR helpline has been set up to support former children's home residents who may have been abused by an HIV positive social worker. Mark Trotter, aged 34, was being investigated for five child sex assaults when he died of an AIDS-related illness last year.

UK to fight VAT on tolls

BRITISH motorists should be paying VAT on tunnel and bridge tolls, the European Commission said yesterday. It announced it was taking Britain and three other EU countries to court for failing to charge VAT on tolls for roads, tunnels and bridges.

Dentists plead for help

DENTISTS yesterday set out a rescue package for their profession, which they claim is in a deepening crisis. The British Dental Association's Manifesto for Dentistry calls for a return to a comprehensive NHS dental service, and the re-introduction of free dental check-ups.

Army rejects drug charges

MINISTRY OF Defence officials yesterday denied charges that drug taking was increasing in the army after five members of the Household Cavalry tested positive for cannabis. An MoD spokesman said strict discipline and education programmes meant young recruits were less likely to try drugs than their civilian counterparts.

£8,000 fine over tithe barn

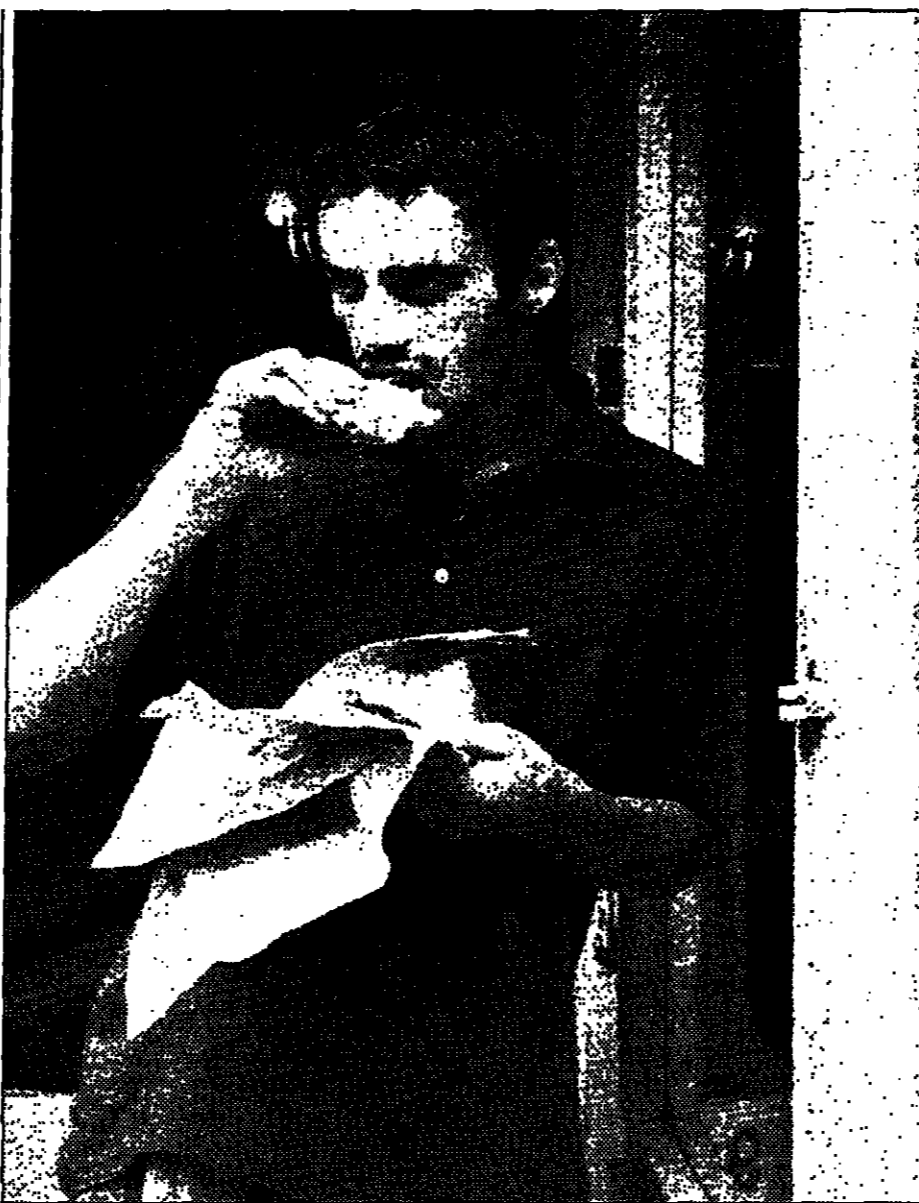
THE owner of a 15th century tithe barn was fined a total of £8,000 yesterday after being convicted on four counts of causing reckless damage to an ancient monument. Luton crown court was told the barn had been subjected to excavations to its ancient drainage system and septic tank, and the moat, and illegal digging of foundations for an outbuilding and trenches for electric cables.

Turner to leave GMTV

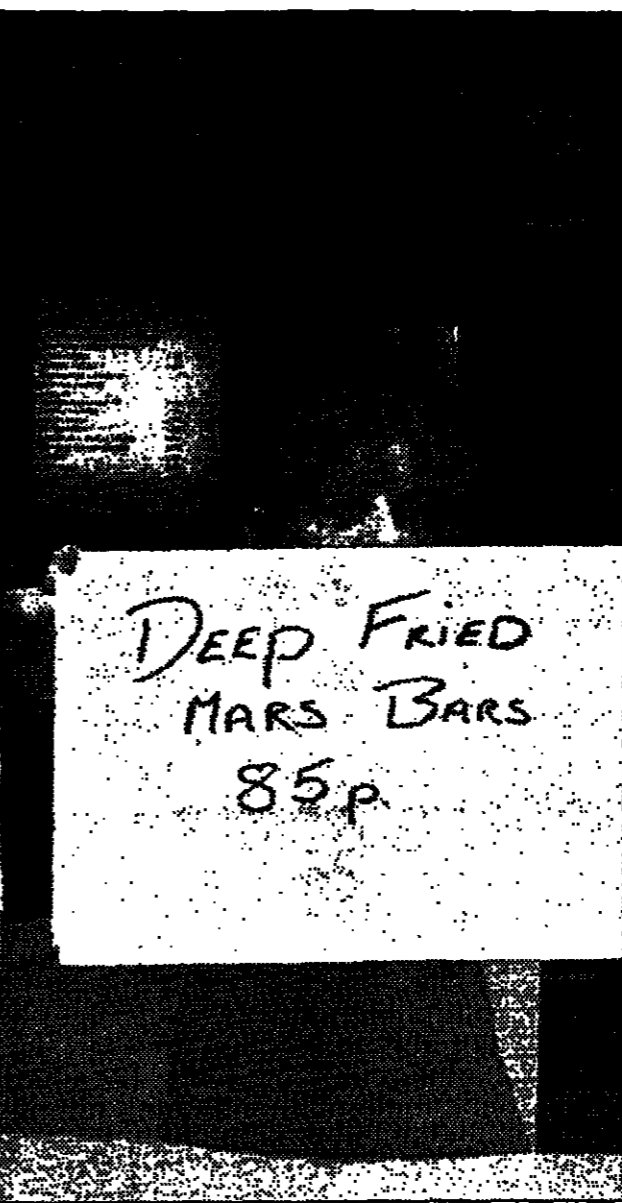
ANTHERA Turner is to leave her GMTV breakfast show to concentrate on projects for ITV. She ended months of speculation about her future on the breakfast show with an announcement yesterday that she would leave in December. Ms Turner, aged 36, also said she was looking forward to giving up the 4am start to try to start a family with husband and manager Peter Powell.

Apology

THE article Mothers of Contention (G2, July 23) suggested that the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills QC "ordered thousands of frozen embryos to be destroyed". This statement is incorrect. The DPP has no such role and we apologise unreservedly for any embarrassment caused by a mistake in the editing process.



Dining out... A chip shop customer bites into a fried Mars Bar. 'It is all too easy to jump to simplistic answers for Scotland's diet' PHOTOGRAPH BY MURDO MACLEOD



Sweet taste of success

THE Haven chip shop in Stonehaven engineered the revival of the deep fried Mars Bar last summer, much to the disgust of Britain. Here, Evelyn Balgovan, who works in the shop, tells the story of the rebirth of a Scottish culinary delight.

Unhealthy Scots get fat chance of longer life

bles while a third of boys eat chips every day. By 15, a fair proportion of Scotland's youth are well acquainted with cigarettes and alcohol. The result is that Scots die younger.

THE tomato-covered dough descends into bubbling oil, followed by a flavoured Mars Bar. Dinner is ready - deep fried pizza with a similarly prepared Mars for pudding. Battering, for the Scots, is a way of life.

ment, Lord Douglas Hamilton said that the Scottish Office realised that it could not force people to change their eating habits, only persuade.

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Governors reaffirm Birt's plans

THE governors of the BBC decided at the end of a seven-hour board meeting yesterday to push ahead with their restructuring plans for the World Service despite the opposition.

But there were no signs of any further doubts or delays after yesterday's meeting. Even the governors known to harbour doubts about the wisdom of John Birt's plans were keeping their heads down.

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My World Service Shirley Williams

My World Service Shirley Williams

My World Service Shirley Williams

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6 WORLD NEWS

Creeping coup that caught up with Burundi

Chris McGreal in Bujumbura

UNTIL yesterday, they called it the creeping coup. It began three years ago with the army's assassination of Burundi's first freely elected and Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye...

leashed their anger about brutally dashed hopes on their Tutsi neighbours. The army exacted its revenge on Hutus. Tens of thousands died. In the past three years, the killing has not stopped.

success. Civilian government was overthrown. Burundi's latest Hutu president, Sylvestre Ntibunganya, was hiding in the United States embassy. The Hutu half of the cabinet fled to other Western embassies. And majority rule was finally emasculated.

Belgium offers to aid Britons

LEADERS of the 150-strong British community in Burundi are in close contact with the Belgian embassy, which is offering them consular protection, the Foreign Office said yesterday, Richard Norton-Taylor writes.

Most of the nationals there are aid workers and members of non-government organisations. Evacuation arrangements would be made if they were required, the FO said.

di's last Tutsi prime minister who resigned yesterday during the coup, was installed last year with the support of the army and one of the country's most notorious extremists, the former military dictator Jean-Baptiste Bagaza.

week of mourning after the slaughter of more than 300 people on Saturday. But the military ensures that no such pictures reach the Hutus slaughtered by the army, militias and aggrieved Tutsi civilians.

elite. They saw clearly that foreign troops would mean pressure to negotiate with the rebels and Frodebu, and that could only lead to one thing: Any effective political settlement would have to recognise the legitimacy of majority rule, albeit with strong security and democratic guarantees for the Tutsi minority. And that would be at the expense of the Tutsi elite's dominance.

News in brief

EU threatens to quit Mostar

THE European Union yesterday threatened to abandon its two-year peace mission in the divided Bosnian city of Mostar on August 4 unless Croat nationalists accept the results of last month's elections to a new unified city assembly.

Colombo bomb suspects held

SRI LANKAN police yesterday detained 37 people following the bombing on Wednesday of a train crowded with commuters in the capital, Colombo, at the height of the evening rush-hour.

Court rejects Biko claim

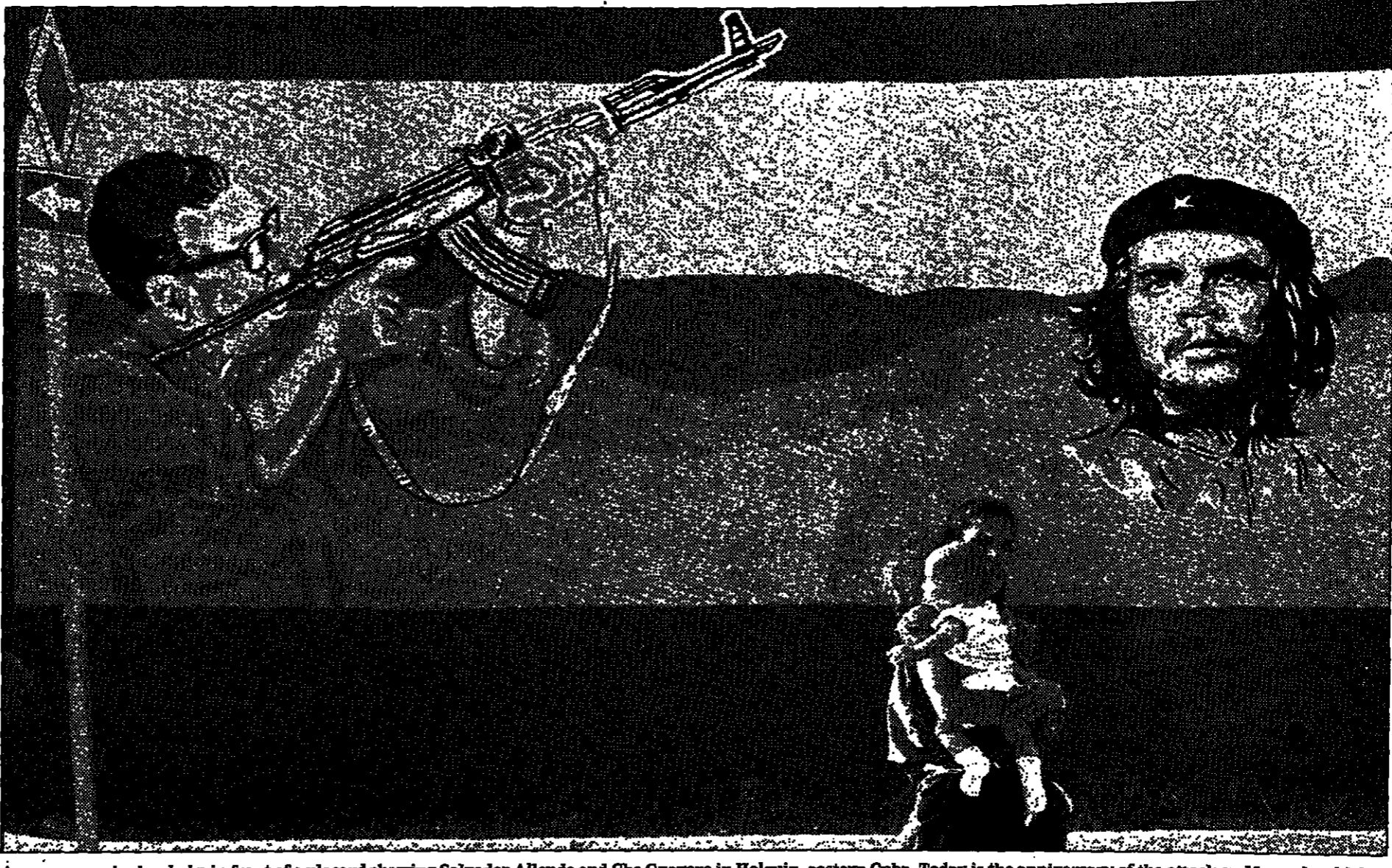
SOUTH AFRICA'S most powerful court yesterday rejected an attempt by the family of the murdered activist Steve Biko to prevent his killers being pardoned if they confess.

Samper proposes 'war tax'

COLOMBIA'S president, Ernesto Samper, said yesterday he will ask the country's congress to approve a one-off 'war tax' to raise \$300 million to fight guerrillas and drug traffickers.

Italian minister beats Greens

ITALY'S former anti-corruption prosecutor, Antonio di Pietro, last night notched up the first big victory of his career as a minister when he won a face-off with the country's Greens.



A woman carries her baby in front of a placard showing Salvador Allende and Che Guevara in Holguin, eastern Cuba. Today is the anniversary of the attack on Moncada which is said to be the start of the Cuban revolution and President Fidel Castro is to address the nation and honour the province for a good sugar harvest

Crash flight 'black boxes' found

THE impasse in the investigation into the crash of TWA Flight 800 appeared to have been broken yesterday as investigators analysed the tapes from the aircraft's flight recorders, recovered from the ocean off eastern Long Island early yesterday morning.

acoustic 'pings' they are supposed to emit following a crash. Divers found them as they examined a pile of wreckage in waters 100ft deep. A robot submarine was used to verify the discovery and the recorders were flown to Washington in seawater to be dried out and analysed at the NTSB laboratory.

New date for war in Vietnam will bring benefits to 300 veterans

DECADES old controversy over when the United States entered the Vietnam war was reignited this week when American lawmakers voted to bring forward by more than two years the starting date of the conflict.



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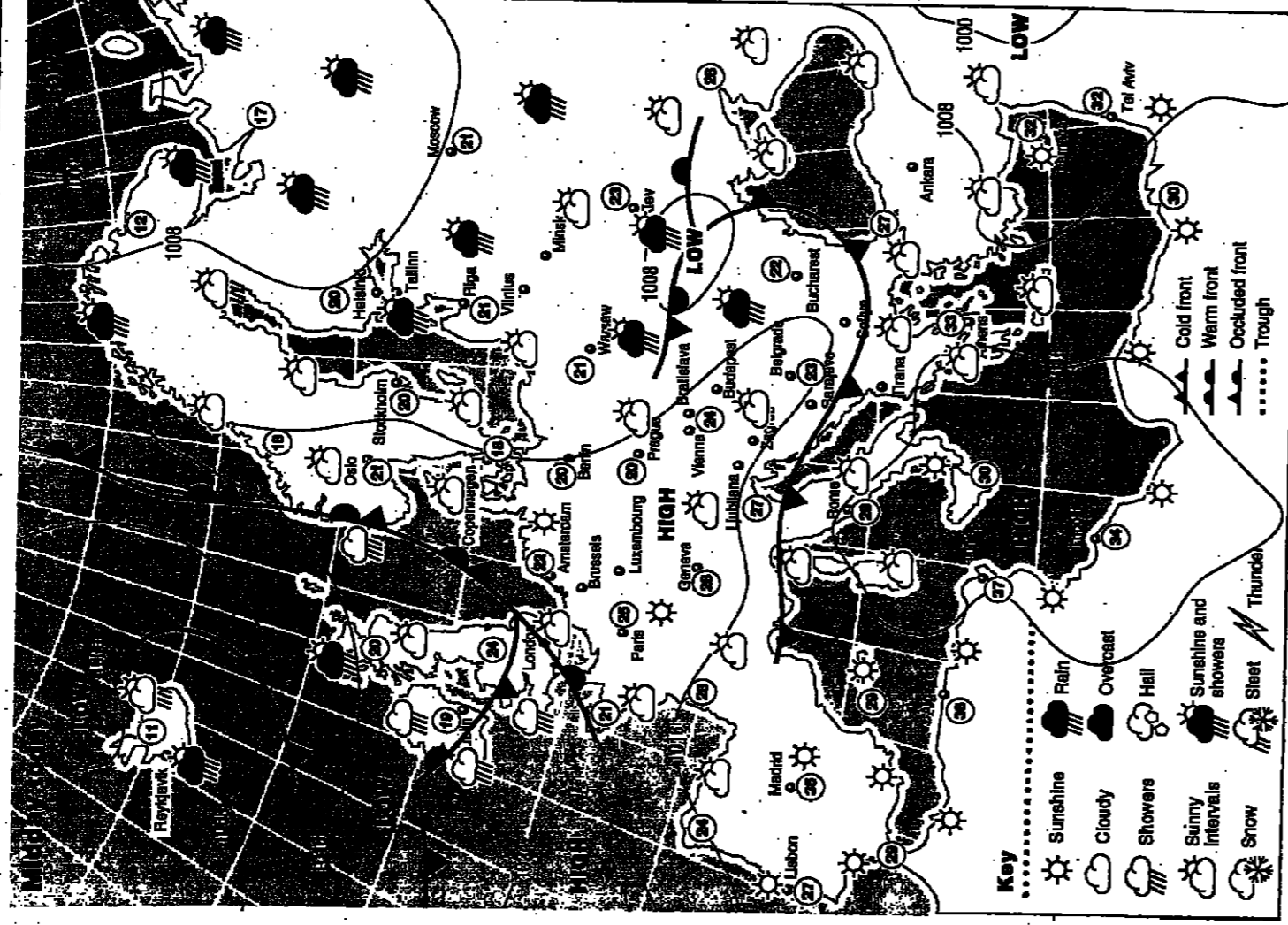


12 Weather/Television The weather in Europe

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# 12 | Weather/Television

## The weather in Europe



### Forecast for the cities

City	Today	Tomorrow	Monday
Algeria	18	21	22
Amman	18	21	22
Algiers	18	21	22
Ankara	18	21	22
Athens	18	21	22
Baku	18	21	22
Berlin	18	21	22
Birmingham	18	21	22
Bombay	18	21	22
Buenos Aires	18	21	22
Cardiff	18	21	22
Cairo	18	21	22
Canton	18	21	22
Cebu	18	21	22
Chicago	18	21	22
Copenhagen	18	21	22
Dakar	18	21	22
Dublin	18	21	22
Hankou	18	21	22
Hong Kong	18	21	22
London	18	21	22
Lyons	18	21	22
Madrid	18	21	22
Moscow	18	21	22
New York	18	21	22
Paris	18	21	22
Peking	18	21	22
Rangoon	18	21	22
Rome	18	21	22
Sao Paulo	18	21	22
Shanghai	18	21	22
Singapore	18	21	22
Tokyo	18	21	22
Vienna	18	21	22
Washington	18	21	22
Zurich	18	21	22

### European weather outlook

An active cold front will push a band of rain steadily across Norway during the day. In the afternoon, the front will move into Sweden and Denmark, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. In the north, the front will be on the coast with a squally shower. Max temp 17-22C.

## Television and Radio

**BBC 1**  
7:00pm Business Breakfast, 8:00pm Olympic Highlights, 8:30pm News, 9:00pm Olympic Coverage, 9:30pm News, 10:00pm Sports, 10:30pm News, 11:00pm News, 11:30pm News, 12:00am News.

**BBC 2**  
7:15pm Open University: Design For Living, 7:45pm Sports, 8:00pm News, 8:30pm News, 9:00pm News, 9:30pm News, 10:00pm News, 10:30pm News, 11:00pm News, 11:30pm News, 12:00am News.

**BBC Prime**  
8:00pm News, 8:30pm News, 9:00pm News, 9:30pm News, 10:00pm News, 10:30pm News, 11:00pm News, 11:30pm News, 12:00am News.

**ITV**  
7:00pm News, 7:30pm News, 8:00pm News, 8:30pm News, 9:00pm News, 9:30pm News, 10:00pm News, 10:30pm News, 11:00pm News, 11:30pm News, 12:00am News.

## Arts page 4

Stepping out: why our best ballerinas want to make movies

## Music page 6

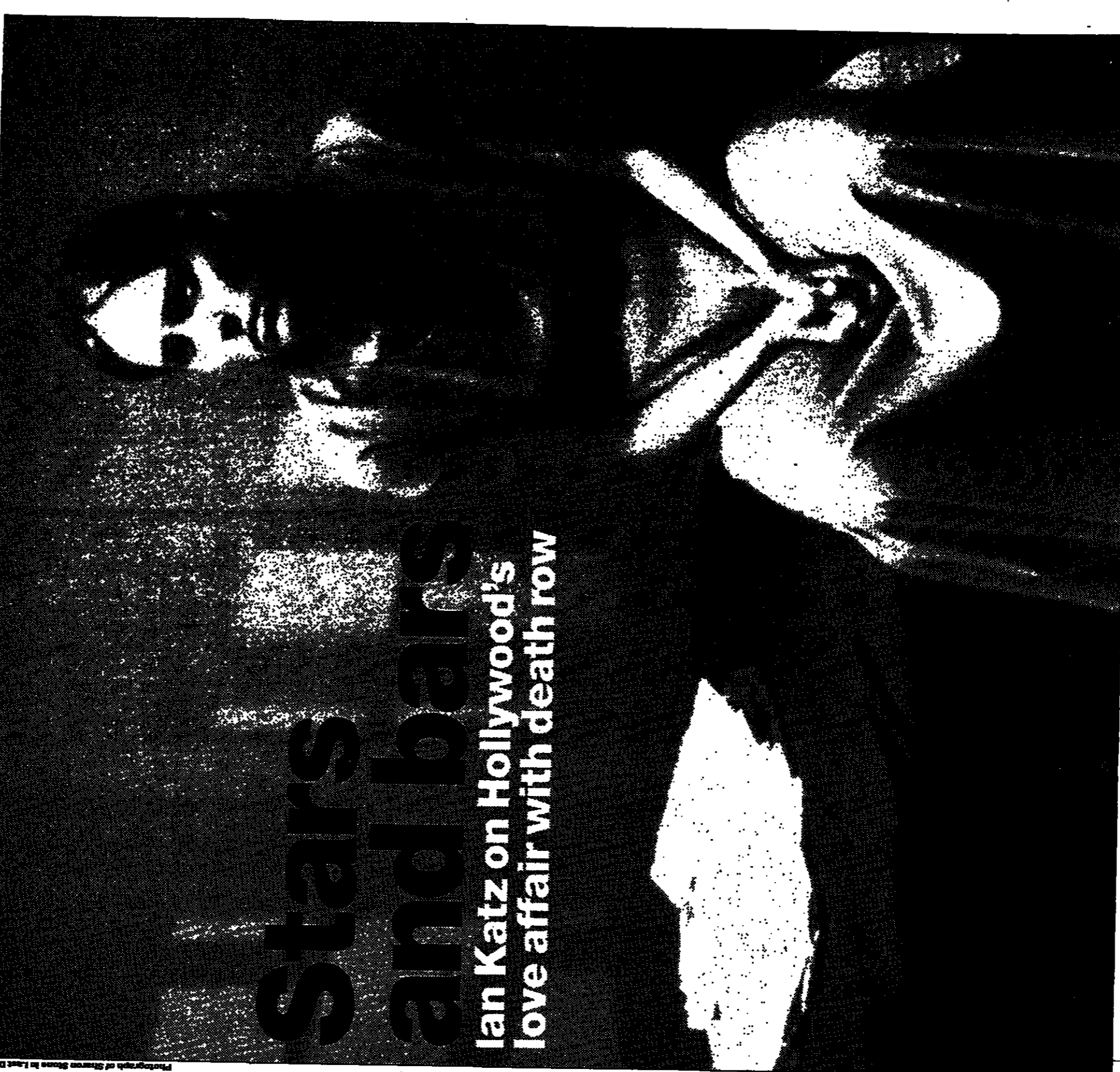
Ring of truth: Michael Tanner says it's OK to like Wagner

## Books page 8

Rebel without applause: myths behind the James Dean legend

Friday July 29 1995

# The Guardian International **REVIEW**



**Stars and Stripes**  
Ian Katz on Hollywood's love affair with death row

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America is in a hanging mood. The majority of the nation is right behind capital punishment. But Hollywood's new movies and their directors are against the death penalty. Ian Katz on life versus art

# Pictures at an execution

ON THE MORNING OF August 14, 1998, 10,000 people packed the tiny Kentucky town of Owensboro to watch Rahmy Beylani hang for murder. Little is recorded about the crime, but we know that hangers at the execution sold popcorn and hotdogs, and spectators climbed trees and telephone poles around the gallows. Within moments of the trap-door opening, reported a correspondent, "anger hands clenched at the black death hood", ripping off masks as soon as they were possible.

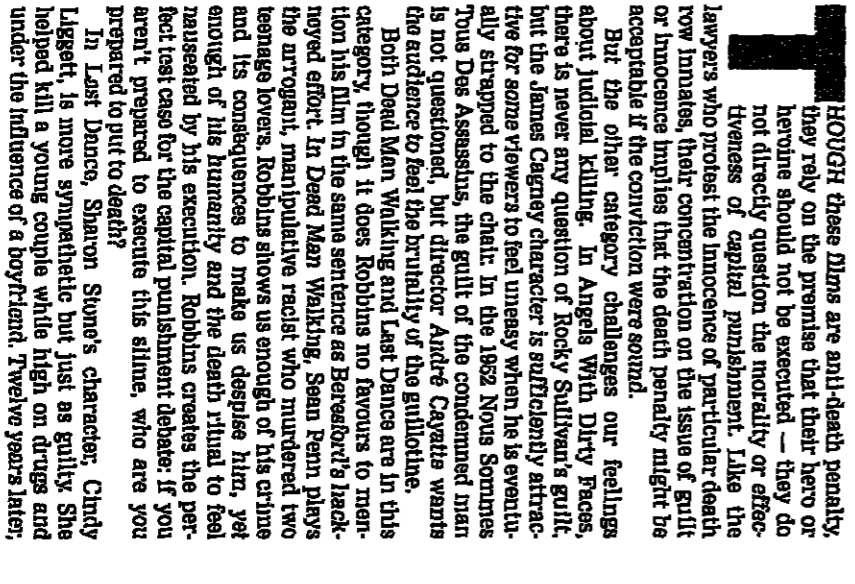
The unsmiling faces of the British hanging jurists, American law-makers to abolish public execution. Though 800 people managed to procure passes for a hanging this month, all spectators in the US state have been carried out under strictly controlled conditions. Only a few reporters, dignitaries and witnesses selected by the condemnation attendants and killings that take place now almost every week. What they see is closely controlled, and recording and photography are strictly forbidden.

But Americans have scarcely been deprived of death chamber drama. Hollywood provides the next best thing. Tim Robbins's brilliant *Dead Man Walking* offered a closer view of an execution than any spectator had at Rahmy Beylani's hanging. We didn't just see Matthew Poindexter being put to death, we saw him sweat through his last hours. A few months later, Sharon Stone was offering another, albeit less compelling, tour of death row in Bruce Beresford's *Last Dance*, released in Britain next month. A film version of John Grisham's capital punishment pot-boiler, *The Chamber*, follows soon.

Robbins and Beresford would resent the implication that their productions satisfy the same appetites as public executions. Both films are against the death penalty. Last *Dance* less subtly so than *Dead Man Walking*. They depict death row's rituals in detail only to convey the sanctified horror of judicial killing. They both believe Americans support capital punishment as an abstract idea — but if Americans know what it really meant, they would change their views.

Hollywood may be going through a spasm of moral agonising about capital punishment, but there is little evidence that the American public is suffering similarly. The US is in a hanging mood. Polls consistently show support for the death penalty at 80 per cent and the few politicians opposing it (like former New York Governor Mario Cuomo) have been kicked out of office or forced to resign. Executions were inaugurated nearly for the first decade after the US Supreme Court lifted the ban on capital punishment in 1976. Now they are a commonplace, and scarcely warrant more than a paragraph or two.

Last year 39 people were executed in the US, the most in any single year since 1967. The total will be higher this year. But if the anti-death penalty campaigners had hoped that swift conveyor-belt judicial killing would make Americans reconsider their position, they were disappointed. Most Americans actually feel death sentences are not carried out quickly enough. Responding to the public frustration can keep death row inmates alive for up to 15 years. Republican law-makers have ended funding for the death row commentator, Michael Medved finds this.



Dead Man Walking: Susan Hayward in a scene from the film (1998), top; and the same actress in *Dead Man Walking* (1998)

The Guardian Friday July 26 1998

disconnection between Hollywood's view and the rest of America unapologetic. "This is one of those issues that a number of people in the entertainment industry feel generally passionate about, and the entertainment industry, rather than enjoying the pose of defining public opinion."

Wendy Lesser, the author of *Pictures at an Execution* (Harvard University Press), a study of America's preoccupation with murder, also warns against drawing conclusions from the films. She says the audience for "these movies, especially movies with Sharon Stone in them, don't necessarily indicate what's going on politically. It has to do with how people want to spend the night."

The current films are just the latest in a genre which goes back even beyond the 1988 James Cagney classic *Witness*. Most fit into two categories. There is the innocent man or woman wrongly condemned — as parodied in the film-within-a-film in *Robert Altman's The Player*. Two Hollywood aspirants pitch an idea to the Tim Robbins character — they want to make a death row drama called *Habeas Corpus* about a prosecutor who finds out at the last moment that he has sent an innocent woman to her death. He races to the gas chamber but arrives too late. The wannabe director, played by Richard E. Grant, laments: "She's dead. Because that's the reality. The innocent die." But reality ends at the studio gates.

When we eventually see the onscreen version of *Habeas Corpus*, the prosecutor dashes down the corridor to the death chamber just as the gas pellets are released. He smashes a window and pulls her to bed. And the young director's plea that the film should have no stars has been ignored: the prosecutor is played by Bruce Willis; the condemned woman by Julia Roberts. "What about the truth?" asks a studio employee. "Just about the truth? The old ending failed in *Chicago*. *Prizzi's* replaces the already cynical young director."

The Broadway comedy *The Front Page*, put on film in 1991, resembles *His Girl Friday* in 1940 but in the film, transferred to television news, as switching channels in 1986, is a constant variation on the theme: a reporter on a last assignment must get the story before an innocent is put to death. Not all the innocent survivors of course. Even Hollywood can't save on *Shuttle* (1989), based on the life and death of a San Francisco physician unconvincingly convicted of murder. Susan Hayward goes to the gas chamber. Despite evidence suggesting that she has been framed. (Not that Hayward minded, she got an Oscar.)

The 1997 British film, *Let Him Live It*, also casts doubt on the guilt of a condemned man. Focusing on the long-debated question of what the retarded Derek Bentley meant when he yelled "let him have it" to his young accomplice, Christopher Craig. Prosecutors who had caught them breaking into a factory, Bentley — and later Craig — said he had meant Craig should give up his weapon. Both youths were convicted of murder but, because he was only 16, Craig received a life sentence. Bentley was hanged.

THOUGH these films are anti-death penalty, they rely on the premises that their hero or heroine should not be executed — they do not directly question the morality or effectiveness of capital punishment. Like the novel inmates, their contribution on the issue of guilt or innocence hinges on the death penalty might be acceptable if the conviction was sound.

Quick Crossword No. 8188

Across

- 1 Exhilarated youth (9)
- 2 Flower or seedling (4)
- 3 Empty tomb (6)
- 40 Whiter (6)
- 11 (North) American (10)
- 13 Part of speech (6)
- 18 Object's heaviness (6)
- 16 Label by Tolstokovsky (4,4)
- 18 Pair, often blue (4)
- 19 Sounding to cozzy (5,4)

Down

- 1 Fears and status (4,4)
- 2 Shoe (6)
- 3 Cry of a horse (6)
- 4 Demonstration (replied to) (6)
- 5 Ad family to suppress (5,4)
- 7 Machinery or assembly (6,4)
- 14 Mercantile tool (4,4)
- 14 Limb of tree (6)
- 18 Pair of pants (6)
- 17 Close (4)

TECHNICAL EDITOR

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- the cost of re-training such as tuition fees at the home student rate.

Doonebury

BY GARRY TRIDEAU

ANNING, AS THE BEST OF PRECISELY TYING A LOT OF NECKTIES TOGETHER AND HANGING THEM UP TO DRY. HE'S THINKING ABOUT THE NEW TIE THAT HE'S JUST MADE.

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HE'S LET THE BEST OF PRECISELY TYING A LOT OF NECKTIES TOGETHER AND HANGING THEM UP TO DRY. HE'S THINKING ABOUT THE NEW TIE THAT HE'S JUST MADE.

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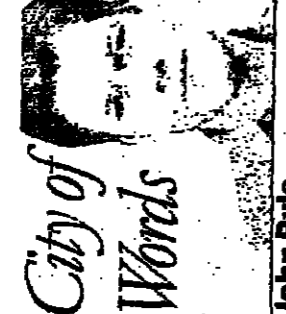
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**John Ryle**  
**H**ERE is a software and shopping yarn from Thailand. He had a jeweller's eye, wedged in his eye and a hissed smile. He, too, was expecting the thrill of new technology, the sense of discovery, the control over the future. A Buddhist, he would have said, it was an illusion, but the object still seemed to give him strength. It was a hint of loss, of something he had lost.

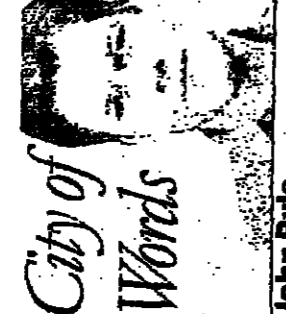
An amulet is an ally, a reminder of an exemplary life, but its deepest meaning is decipherable only by priests and scholars. Likewise with software: the programs promise power and knowledge, but can be fully exploited only by the manufacturers, anticipating the manufacturers' anticipations. The CD-ROM is a commodity, an object in the world of information, an information commodity, a commodity, a commodity, a commodity. The CD-ROM is a commodity, an object in the world of information, an information commodity, a commodity, a commodity. The CD-ROM is a commodity, an object in the world of information, an information commodity, a commodity, a commodity.

**The CD-Rom is a communion**  
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 More to the mystical potency I ascribe to the software... on its surface...  
 Soon, CDs will seem archaic. They will be superseded by still more capacious mass storage media. They will require, in their turn, the quiet air of vinyl. But for the moment, in their shivery blankness, they have an almost extra-terrestrial quality. Take the CDs on the covers of computer magazines. They come free, the programs are almost impossible to throw away. It would seem sacrilege, like ripping up a book, in marketing terms, though a CD-Rom is not like a book. The cost of a book does not reflect its content; it makes no difference whether it contains a great writing or trash. With a CD-Rom, content is all: the disks are priced according to the information they contain. That is why there was pirate software for sale. Perhaps it is this sense of the presence of pure information — invisible, incorruptible — that gives the CD-Rom its special power, as a heraldic image acts as a reminder of nirvana. That walked away from From Manila Plaza, empty-handed, but



**Goodyear hair and make-up: Sharon Stone in Last Dance and Sean Penn in Dead Man Walking (below)**  
 site appears reformulated, producing the drawings and taking down letters for her fellow inmates. We don't need to think too hard about whether we are willing to execute her. She may not be wearing any make-up, but she is still Sharon Stone.  
 Death row movie is easy to understand. All the ingredients of great drama are there. A death sentence effortlessly provides that crucial dramatic device: an engine of suspense. The execution order acts just like the bomb timer counting its way down in thousands of action films. The last-minute judicial stays — granted even as the condemned is led into the death chamber — provide just the plot twists that Hollywood loves. And what better terrain than the man's hand between life and death?  
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 So compelling are many death row cases that the line between reality and theatre seems to blur. In Norman Mailer's *The Executioner*, Gary Gilmore, it is clear that a character is the death row inmate that had overtake his life. When Bob Moody, one of his lawyers, shakes his head at Gilmore's cracks: "Well, Moody, I'm going to leave you my best: You need to work on it. When the warden asks whether he has any last words, Gilmore says: 'Let's do it.' Mailer could not have invented more dramatic dialogue.  
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 After the 1941 double execution in California

**City of Words**



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# Little Winston's father

**His Father's Son: The Life of Randolph Churchill** by Winston Churchill  
514pp, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £20

**Julian Critchley**

THE Churchill family, drunk or sober, is one of the country's most profitable cottage industries. The Great Winston, as he was known, was not only a remarkable ancestor but also a remarkable ancestor's son. The Duke of Marlborough, but of his father, Randolph, as well. Little Randolph, the son of Winston, began the biography of his father which was finished by Dr Martin Gilbert. Now the process seems never ending. Winston's book is much better than I expected it to be, of course, a compilation of correspondence, anecdote and inhibited indignation, but it is none the worse for that. Little Winston, as he is known in the Commons, has had a relatively undisciplined career, thrown into relief by the success of his cousin, Nicholas Spence, the one-time member of foot and now junior defence minister. He is of cabinet rank.

Little Winston was promoted in the late twenties to the position of first secretary to a sympathetic party leader, but he did not stay, and soon fell out with his Thatcher boss, one Rhodri, Ian Gilmour, his boss, once said to me that the did not mind so much what Winston said but that he would not let Winston's father justify, never evading the

devil that consumed him, but paying a proper tribute to his father's energy. In my view, and I am probably in politics the was generally true to his own party, officers than to anyone else, Randolph became a superb journalist, fearless and of good judgement. Among his favourite targets were the newspaper barons, and who deserved greater censure than they? How he would have lived today when 68 per cent of the British press (more if you count Lord Rothermere's domesticity in Paris) is firmly in foreign hands. What would he have made of Murdoch and of Black? And of their editors? That he should be alive this day.

The most interesting part of Little Winston's book is his tale of Randolph's wartime exploits especially in what was once Yugoslavia. The combination of Britain's greatest fighting soldier (Prizroy Maclean) in the company of the greatest novelist (Geoffrey Wainwright) and its most distinguished (Randolph) is worth the whole somewhat opaque volume. It is no wonder that the then Serbian leader, Mihailovic, stood little chance against such a triumvirate.

And yet there is only one half of the picture that will suffice to his capacity not only to make enemies, but to make friends. Psychologists brought up in the spirit of the Randers Digest, were swift to draw conclusions as a young man of spirit, brought up as an only son, in the strikingly shadow of the greatest man of the age. He could either sink or swim. He did neither: he sprang a lifetime treating water.

The young Winston does his father justice, never evading the

stand why this man is thought to be funny (et aliam a "comic genius" (Stanley Huley). One can only have so much staid banality and sublimated timorousness (that disease endemic to the middle class which the Germans call "Thyrsold angst"). It is like discovering that Pooter was a real person.

**Stiches; by Benedict de Spinoza, ed & by Edwin Curly, Int Stuart Hampshire (Penguin Classics), £5.99**

Very welcome addition to the Penguin Classics series, even though some of his propositions seem dauntingly obscure. When people complain that philosophy has, these days, degenerated into a jargon of terms, they are perhaps forgetting how long it is necessary to define a sentence like "No attribute of a substance can be truly conceived from which it follows that the substance can be divided" before it even begins to make sense. The best looking at that for two weeks and even now I'm not sure.

**The Purchased Other selected writings, by James Maccolm (Penguin), £12**

I didn't know much about Maccolm until I opened this book. She was one of those people who write those satirically long essays for the New Yorker which make one feel relieved not to read. In book form, however, these same pieces written between 1978 and 1990) become engaging, whether she is writing about psychoanalysis, art (able to see, in 1986, that "God seems to have switched to grey as the colour of 'virtue' or 'kindness'; she even makes a reference of Edmund Gosse book interesting.

**Quantum Theory for Dummies, by J P McGreevy and Oscar Zarate (Leon, £3.99)**

I am pleased to present a non-quantum exception to the rule that subjects no longer, quantum theory is so well, after all, and requires so much specialised knowledge that the lay person may as well get his or her information from the subject from a comic book as anywhere else.

There is still a lot of hard science in here, and Zarate is a good cartoonist by any standards. I am not in any way meant to give the writer, but that is hardly the author's fault.



# Jimmy the Kid

**Robert: The Life and Legend of James Dean** by Donald Spoto

306pp, HarperCollins, £18

**Jonathan Romney**

IT WAS "not an extraordinary person in real life," James Dean's Hammett said of him. "If anything, he was rather bohemian." In fact, Dean emerges from Donald Spoto's biography as extraordinarily bohemian: a poet, careerist and world-class subcult. Spoto's title promises another eventful chapter in the myth of the transcendent teenager, but by the end there's very little legend left. What emerges is a talented, but desperately limited, young actor with a severe case of what Edna Ferber called "success poisoning". His professional behaviour wasn't in fact so much iconoclastically self-destructive as just plain counterproductive.

Dean sounds like he needed a good sleep; if you believe the gossip that when he died, the teenager's body had been embalmed by the legend, propagated by Hammett, Ager and others, of the "Harem Abbey", a gay minister with a skull in the shape of a hammer, and a crowd of the same from Spoto, who controlled Hammett's sexual repression and Lawrence Olivier's romance with Dorothy Kays. But the promises with *Jimmy the Kid* are not so much evidence of a logic that where no evidence exists, there is no story; he dismisses the insider theory as "a ready diversion".

Dean's liaisons with both sexes are duly covered, but there's a much richer story here, of an incoherently immature boy trying to carve out an identity from diverse models. On the fictional side, he identified with Billy the Kid and The Little Prince, and pretty much succeeded in turning himself into an unbody analogue of the two. He idolised Marlon Brando and Montgomery Clift. Spoto even speculates that Dean's homosexual activity was partly modelled on them. It's bitterly ironic that the boy who became an icon so much larger than his heroes could be fairly described as Hollywood's first great wannabe.

Dean seems to have been entirely self-conscious, not "remotely self-aware" as he was in one of his own neuroses — "Wow! Am I fucked up?" he murmurs in a letter. It was up to

others to harness his pique, and the first who truly succeeded was director Elia Kazan in *East of Eden*. Kazan exploited the fact that Dean was reluctantly staying with his father while shooting, and milked his filial resentment to the full. Though on Raymond Massey, who played opposite him, but so much the better for screen legend.

Dean's early years are ordinary almost to the point of parody. Spoto shows him enthralled at the tales of Paul Bunyan and Johnny Appleseed, he even — in one of those mysteriously precise details you only find in the most readable biographies — has him as a toddler "wing a field, they fluff". So much for war.

But Spoto delves from the start the image of the simple Indiana farm boy; he lets us know that Indiana was no peachy heartland but a hotbed of violent crime from very bank. He similarly traces the Klan's career, the economic and ideological climate of post-war America, and the commercial production of the "teenager" — Dean first, contributed to this invention with an early part in a soft-drinks commercial.

There's plenty on Dean's many TV appearances, which mostly seem to offer glimpses for his own roles. But also get the early roles you really wish you'd witnessed: a grotesque Prandaz's monster, and Boris the ballet master, "Hairy" (but not very hairy) Russian (but the sort of Prandaz Brand went on to specialise in).

When it comes to the legendary film, Spoto is as enthusiastic as other commentators. If a touch lukewarm on Grant, but about the boy himself, he can be reliably scathing — commenting on one letter, he rebukes "the feeble attempt to sound enlightened and erudite".

On the post-mortem idolatry Spoto doesn't spread his cultural net wide enough — there's a litany of actors influenced by him, but nothing about the generations of rockers who cribbed his act. Every returner who ever suited to a 4/4 beat owes something to photos like the one of Dean putting in prescription specs over someone's Complete Poetical Works.

Spoto excels, however, in his final reading of Dean as a socio-economic phenomenon of post-war America. Dean's self-absorption and individualism make him no sort of dissident, but a purely conventional product of his time. "Wow! Am I fucked up?" he calls him — "contemporary" boys boy capitalists".

# Where does a ballerina turn when the lights go dim?

Judith Mackrell on the ballet stars who cover second careers

FIFTY YEARS ago, when Norma Shearer was offered the film part that was to make her an international star, she spent 12 months trying to turn it down. And then, she has said, "was the last thing I wanted to do. I thought for a year to get away from that film." Sheer, a comedy actress, was committed to a career with the Royal Ballet, Shearer feared being sidetracked, and when she did finally agree to do the movie it was partly because Ninotchka de Valois had said to her, "For goodness sake do it, get it off your chest and out."

These days, though, with Dorey Bessal auditioning for Sydney Pollack's film Sabrina, Sylvia Guillem talking openly about a movie career, and Viviana Durante taking a sabbatical from the Royal Ballet to try some acting, dancers' attitudes look rather different.

How many now would display Shearer's nun-like resistance to Hollywood? Durante, for instance, is taking a year out of the Royal Ballet at the peak of her dancing career — she has just triumphed in Kenneth MacMillan's *Amazilia*, and has been developing a dramatic stage partnership with the Royal's most handsome star, Ken Mitchell. Standard recently tried to suggest that a ballerina-drama rivalry with Bessal was behind Durante's exit. But dancers live wild, and even drive on, competition. The truth is more interesting.

Durante has been with the Royal Opera House and school — since she was a child and she needs some fresh air. More significantly, she is part of a generation of twenty-something ballet stars — under growing pressure to prepare for their second, non-dancing careers.

Classical dancers have always

Mastered for the movies...? Durante (right) is taking a sabbatical from ballet to try acting. Her final performance in Swan Lake at the Royal Opera House on August 3

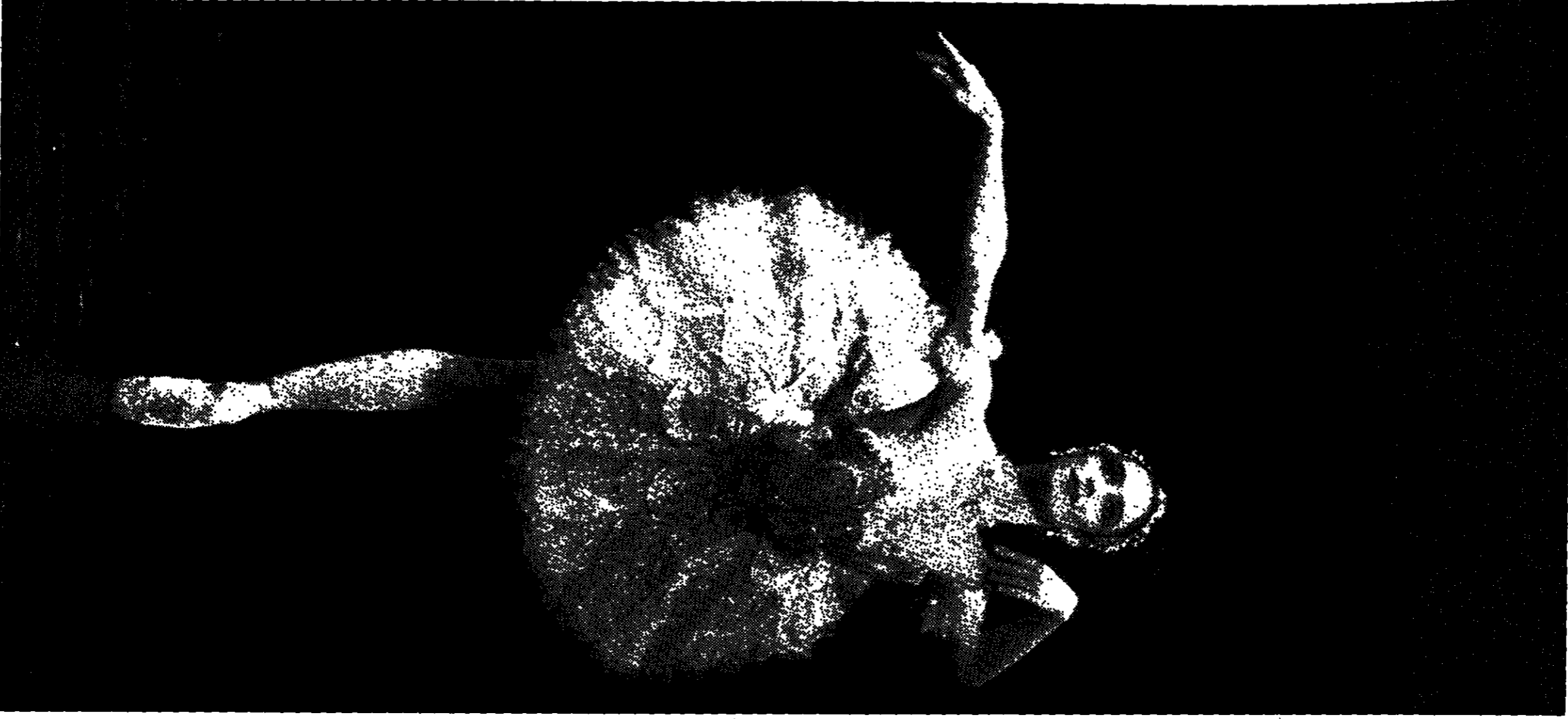
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# BOOKS

## He was on the shelf with the Modern Masters, like Wittgenstein and Freud. But who reads R.D. Laing, author of *The Divided Self*, now? Fear in the family

**The Wing of Madness: The Life and Work of R.D. Laing**  
by Daniel Burston  
275pp, Harvard University Press, £21.95

**R.D. Laing: A Divided Self**  
by John Clay  
308pp, Hodder & Stoughton, £20

**Harriet Stewart**

IT IS often said that true doctors prefer the company of their patients to that of their colleagues, and psychiatrists prefer those who are mentally ill to those who are not. One of the projects of the psychiatrist R.D. Laing (*Sanity, Madness and the Family*) investigated the families of schizophrenic "normal" families. Although Laing did some useful research into the behaviour of the former, he was unable to stomach the latter.

"Interviewing the normal family was a more gruelling experience than speaking with the families of schizophrenics. They were just so dead and stiff and, at the same time, it was very hard to describe what the deadening was. So it was difficult to say what the difference between the two was, except that in the normal family nobody cracked up."

It was because of his hostility to normality that Laing was, in the 1960s and 1970s, the only psychiatrist of whom many people had heard. He became a guru after the publication of his most famous books, *The Divided Self*, *Sanity, Madness and the Family* and *The Politics of Experience*. Once a Fontana Modern Master, he taught Freud and Wittgenstein on the shelves. Laing now seems more of a historical curiosity than an intellectual pioneer. John Clay's *A Divided Self* and Daniel Burston's *The Wing of Madness* seek to show why he was one of the most controversial psychiatrists of the 20th century.

Both describe all that was not normal about Laing's upbringing. He was born in Glasgow in 1927, an only child. Barely five years old, he was expelled from his parents' school, as an "absolutely ecstatic" before his sexual activity, ages before his conception. His mother concealed her pregnancy from her family until the day of his birth. Her odd behaviour continued into Laing's childhood, culminating in sometimes taking him on elaborate detours through Glasgow, in order to avoid mainstream influences. The neighbourhood was so full of information that the family was well equipped to deal with his father's ill health, while his mother, a back room, known within the

family as the "dog kennel". His father did not pay or receive calls, and Laing described first going to school as an "absolutely ecstatic experience". He went on to win a scholarship to grammar school and a place at Glasgow Medical School. Laing decided to read medicine, because he thought that it would give him "an entry into some forms of human suffering that the ordinary person is excluded from: extreme physical wreckage and death".

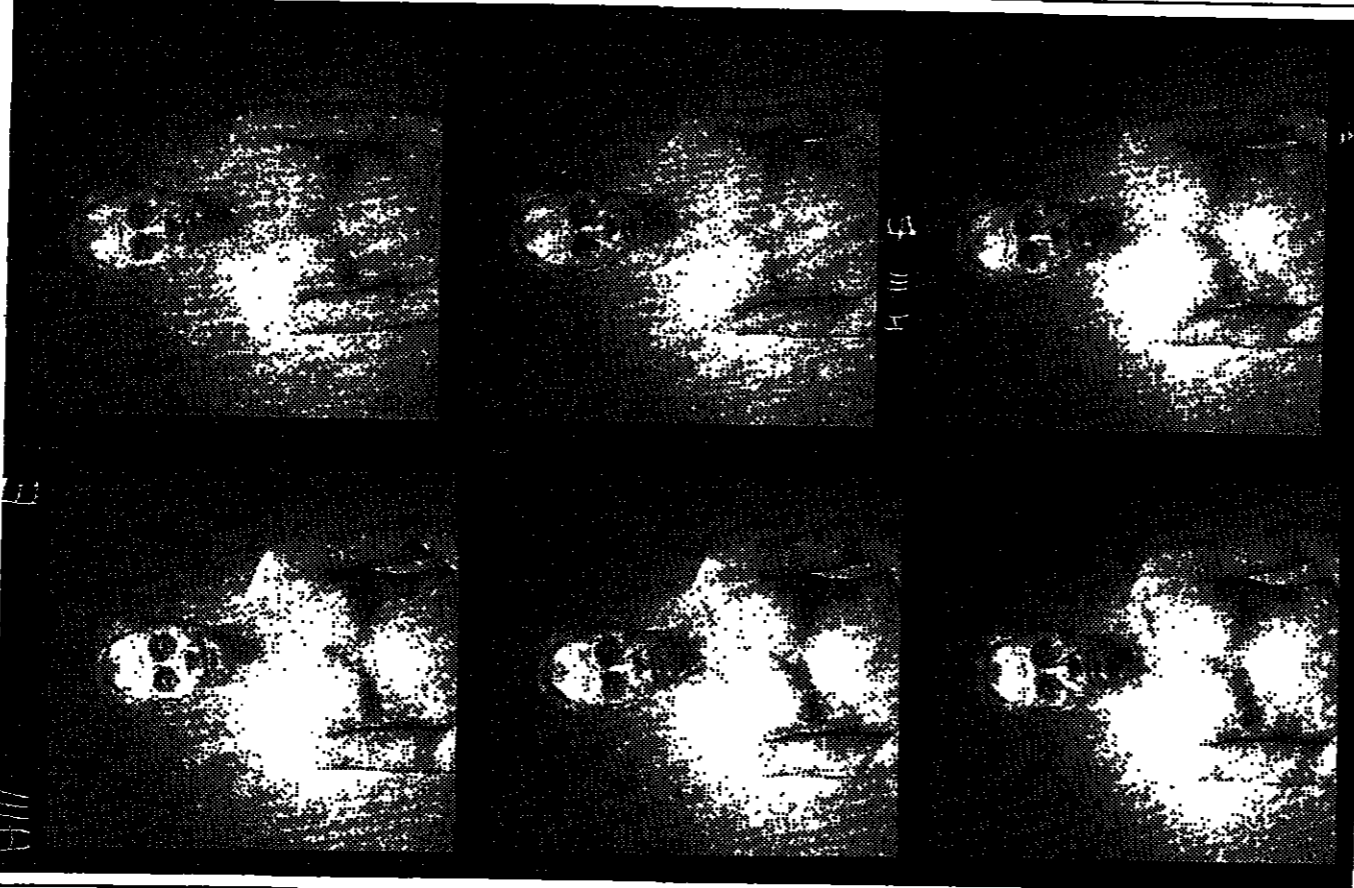
Laing's early medical experiences were brutalising and are well depicted in Clay's and Burston's accounts, which both rely on Laing's own memoir, *Wisdom, Madness and Reality*.

## He wanted 'an entry into some forms of human suffering that the ordinary person is excluded from: extreme physical wreckage and death'

**The doomed visionary R.D. Laing believed that by the mere utterance of the therapist's understanding and humanity a person might be cured**  
PHOTOGRAPH

Observing medical students and doctors toughening themselves against the distress of others, he began to criticise a system of medical care that distanced itself from the patients' pain and anxiety. In his own practice, he was compassionate for his empathic relationships with patients. He tried to enter the worlds of schizophrenics in order to communicate with them.

Laing described a psychiatric unit at Gartnavel Hospital near Glasgow in the 1950s. Sixty women were housed in an "intractable ward". They were allowed no personal possessions of any kind — no underwear, no stockings, no cosmetics, no books...baths were on order — about once a week



Harriet Stewart is a doctor at Glasgow Cross Hospital.

you'd be stripped, put in a bath, scrubbed very hard, dried and put back into your dress...

Laing embarked on an experiment. Twelve women were taken to a special room each day which had been freshly decorated and provided with books, magazines and rugs. They were allowed to wear shoes and make-up and to have their hair done. Vastly popular with the patients, it soon became known by all concerned as "The Rumpus Room". Communication between patients and staff, previously discouraged as inciting psychosis, was greatly improved.

After their allotted time, the patients had improved so much that they were discharged. Although every one of them was back in hospital one year after the experiment, Laing had shown that it was possible to treat mentally ill patients with more humanity "would psychiatrists, were they ill, want to be admitted to their own ward?" was his characteristic challenge.

Burston's elegant account of these early years has a measured thoughtfulness, alongside which Clay's chattier style suffers. Clay comes into his own in his description of Laing's later attempt to found a community, Kingsley Hall, in which mentally ill people could live in harmony in the company of therapists. Here no restrictive doctor-patient relationship would obstruct genuine communication and people would be able to come and go as they pleased. A psychotic breakdown was seen as an existential crisis from which an individual could reach a more authentic way of being, rather than a physical illness treatable with drugs.

The therapists living at Kingsley Hall were for the most part Laing's acolytes, young Americans keen to test out his theories. Free expression was the rule. Formal social greetings were frowned upon and tasks like shopping and cleaning were neglected. The ideal of open access and shared property was often difficult to sustain. Kingsley Hall became a mess for hippies, junkies and visiting celebrities.

Although at times Clay becomes carried away by his unconvincing certainty about Laing's thoughts and feelings, he captures a particular period in history with aplomb. He describes, rather realistically I suspect, a world of Hampstead analysts, taking LSD and sharing houses with new partners plus rows and disney evidence provided yet more opportunity for free expression.

*The Wing of Madness* is the more scholarly and articulate book, concerned as much with Laing's work as with the life. Yet even Burston has difficulty in drawing a legacy from Laing's work. Thirty-six years after the publication of *The Divided Self*, psychiatrists have found physiological models of schizophrenia more convincing than environmental ones.

Laing indeed cast himself as a visionary, who was doomed by a spurned and misunderstood by his peers. Ironically, his vision was itself an odd one: that by the mere utterance of the therapist's understanding and humanity a person might be cured.

retired early (around their late thirties), although there have been famous exceptions like Ponyeyni, Shley and Mikharova, who have managed to remain stars long after their physical prime. At present, nites seems to be getting younger, work-life. Given the vogue for leggy young athletes, it's no wonder some dancers are feeling the need to stake out alternative careers while still at their peak.

Darcey Bussell certainly does. "Technically things are much more of a strain now, the demands are physically more exhausting, and we have a lot of young, strong dancers coming up behind us. If, like me and you, you've done a lot while young, what's the point of hanging your head when you hear about dancers getting hip replacements. You wonder, if you're cracking up at 27, what it's going to be like later. You don't want to lose your quality of life."

Monica Mason, assistant artistic director of the Royal Ballet, does not believe Bussell and Durants' worries are entirely new. "Dancers have always had dreams of going into film and directing. Beautiful dancers, she says, "They've always had to plan for what they'll do when they retire." She thinks it's just that these things weren't discussed in public so much.

Mason does acknowledge that the temptations to take up outside work are more pressing. The financial stakes higher. The media no longer regard dancers as otherworldly princesses but as explicable personalities like rock and sports stars. Gulliver does not walk shows and Rodgers and Hammerstein, who is constantly badgered by TV, has been on French Ant Studios. And the sums of

money floating around make these offers increasingly alluring. Today's top-earning dancers make far more than Bond or Shearer ever did — around £90,000 a year for a star company member. But these sums look like peanuts when Demi Moore gets \$12.5 million for one movie. Christy Turlington can earn \$2 million for 12 days' modelling, and football stars are bought for over £8 million. Great dancers are often as beautiful as models, nearly always more talented than film actresses and harder working than footballers. They would have to be saints not to feel underpaid for what they do, nor to be tempted by the music of movie dollars.

Bussell admits dancers today "are more worldly", though she is adamant that she and her peers are no less dedicated to their art. Mason agrees: "These are rare talents, who are absolutely professional about their work, they don't value it any less." Bussell herself, after falling to the role in Sabrina, made a decision to lend of several other, less desirable acting offers and concentrate on her dancing — "It's what is most important to me at the moment," she says. She also insists that money isn't her main concern, yet like Durante and Gulliver, she is signed up with an agency which constantly checks out career opportunities, and if a fabulous role comes up, Bussell will certainly

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# MUSIC



Wagner has been accused of megalomania, womanising and providing the soundtrack for the Third Reich. Michael Tanner says it is now time to separate his personal defects from his musical brilliance

## Don't mention the Wagner

**W**HAT IS it about Richard Wagner that makes him, 113 years after his death, still so violently controversial? The easy answer would be "everything," but it would not be quite right, for no one — no serious musician — any longer doubts that his place among the most significant composers is now secure.

That is a comparatively recent development. Until after the second world war, for which, to read some contemporary commentators, one might think he was in large measure responsible, there were still important musical figures prepared to discuss him out of hand. But one would be hard put now to find that attitude. It becomes increasingly difficult to write of someone whose works remain enormously popular worldwide. While cycles of The Ring are invariably sold out in advance — more so now than half a century ago.

While it is not uncommon to find a need to cut gentleness, especially self-consolatory ones, down to size that is not a sufficient explanation of anti-Wagnerism, since there are other geniuses whom almost every one rejoices in celebrating. Mozart is an obvious case, even now that the myth of his childlike unawareness of his gifts has been pretty comprehensively blown.

The fact is that people would give Wagner his alleged megalomania, his genuine anti-Semitism, his fluidly engaged womanising and his conversion from left

liberalism to rightism, but they don't find something in his music which justifies their morally hostile and, in the end, often shockingly crude, attacks. It is important to recognise that his roots are deep.

In the strikingly intelligent *A Guide to Opera Recordings* (Oxford University Press, 1987), Ethan Mortimer writes: "Parsifal is a lie, for Wagner was a slaver, hypocrite, bigot, opportunist, adulterer." That telling "for" could only have been based on the assumption that Parsifal is meant to be a proclamation of belief, and that if someone doesn't believe in the way he is taken to be recommending, he is a hypocrite. Only about Wagner would anyone venture to make that remark.

In the Times of July 13 1938, the critic Barry Millington, a leading expert on Wagner, proclaimed a production of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg for revealing "the dark underside of the opera." In short, Millington writes, "the opera is the artistic counterpart of the ideological crusade launched by Wagner in the 1860s, a crusade to urge Germany to awaken, to expel alien elements and honour the 'German spirit'."

The obvious feature of both these remarks, and one that pervades anti-Wagnerian polemic, is the simplicity of the transition from Wagner's extra-musical activities to anti-musical judgements on his art. This would be understandable if he had been a villain on a prodigious scale. But anti-musical judgements, oppor-

unist, even anti-Semitic are not that uncommon in the artistic community. Wagner never behaved with such extravagant malignity as Beethoven, to the sister-in-law or so dishonestly as Beethoven to his publishers. But though Beethoven's biographers tend to deplore the trivial behaviour they never seem to find that a reason to question the greatness of his music. The Meissen Solonians of the Ninth Symphony, for what is an utterly uncharacteristic about Wagner's, the various untheatrical habits some know and up to an ingratiate character which is congruent with his music or the dramas of which it is a crucial part. It is thought to be especially by those who have heard him, or read his music, that he is emphatic, emphatically changed, even in inappropriate passages, and even in a way that leads to suspicions about the sincerity.

Perhaps the fundamental anti-Wagnerian argument can be fairly presented in these terms: Wagner is anti-present in his works. In a way that Shakespeare or Racine in their dramas are not. So the total effect of any of them is of coming into contact with a personality all the more powerful for dispensing himself into all his characters. And such is the force of his art that he turns his spectators into accomplices. Becoming a Wagnerian is, at least in Wagner's own mind, to become Wagner's accomplice.

It is almost impossible to find out whether these things would be still about Wagner if his well-advertised personal defects were not known about, because the advertisement has been so successful that no one who has escaped hearing about it, even people who take an interest in music can recall odd facts about Wagner.

There is, to begin with, his overbearing personality and strength of will, remarked on by everyone who knew him. This urge to dominate, combined with a charm which he could exercise to further his own ends, was realised by many, and even recounted for their willing pleasure to some of his admirers. Next, there is Wagner's financial history, a spectacular affair. From an early age he was chronically in debt, partly because he rarely had a settled source of income, partly because he never ceased to indulge his love of luxury, one of the traits which earned him most ridicule from his contemporaries, as one who in many cartoons, anyone who lent him money was foolish to expect to ever see it again.

Next, the whole Wagner phenomenon was a head-on collision with the bourgeoisie and its values. He thought the Ring one of the most profound and serious of operas, and he thought the Ring one of the most profound and serious of operas, and he thought the Ring one of the most profound and serious of operas.

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The Guardian Friday July 29 1988

The Guardian Friday July 26 1986

### Classical CDs of the week: Bruckner

**Symphony No 0**  
Chicago Symphony/Solti  
DG 462 168 21  
\*\*\* £12.99

**Bruckner Symphony No 6**  
NDR Symphony/Wand  
DG 462 168 21  
\*\*\* £12.99

**Symphonies 0-9: Symphony in F Minor**  
Frankfurt Radio Symphony/Hubel  
Teldec 0830 1402 21  
(11 CDs, available separately)  
\*\*\* £56.99

The century of Bruckner's death falls in October and the tributes are already beginning to accumulate. Both the tributes are already beginning to accumulate. Both the tributes are already beginning to accumulate.

Bruckner's second symphony, which was not performed until 1924, and other works, the account of the sixth are the latest tributes in new cycles by two of the leading Bruckner interpreters of our time, while the release of Solti's edition, recorded between 1982 and 1984, provides a number of performing artists that are vital to the way in which Bruckner composed his symphonies, and how they gradually attained their final form.

Solti's approach could hardly be more sharply contrasted with that of the other editions. He is a man of the steady unfolding of the period pacing of each great Brucknerian paragraph towards his climax, Solti is by nature an interventionist, a more probable interventionist.

That treatment is not only Hitler was an enthusiastic Wagnerian, insisting that the orchestras of the Third Reich attend performances of the dramas which bore them stiff. And if Hitler had taken the dramas seriously he would hardly have encouraged to pursue his policies. Since Wagner shows the ability of political action in dealing with the world's evils.

That there are some similarities between the Nazis' propaganda and Wagner's music is undeniable, and it is a pity that some of the comparisons which Wagner may be suggesting in his dramas is not to be taken too literally. But to attempt to draw any systematic conclusions from that is to do what Wagner is at least half a dozen others do.

Last, most serious and most often used as conclusive evidence against Wagner is his anti-Semitism. It is almost impossible to find out whether these things would be still about Wagner if his well-advertised personal defects were not known about, because the advertisement has been so successful that no one who has escaped hearing about it, even people who take an interest in music can recall odd facts about Wagner.

There is, to begin with, his overbearing personality and strength of will, remarked on by everyone who knew him. This urge to dominate, combined with a charm which he could exercise to further his own ends, was realised by many, and even recounted for their willing pleasure to some of his admirers. Next, there is Wagner's financial history, a spectacular affair. From an early age he was chronically in debt, partly because he rarely had a settled source of income, partly because he never ceased to indulge his love of luxury, one of the traits which earned him most ridicule from his contemporaries, as one who in many cartoons, anyone who lent him money was foolish to expect to ever see it again.

Next, the whole Wagner phenomenon was a head-on collision with the bourgeoisie and its values. He thought the Ring one of the most profound and serious of operas, and he thought the Ring one of the most profound and serious of operas, and he thought the Ring one of the most profound and serious of operas.

### Music 7

Italy's set, though, debate right into the orchestral world of Bruckner's symphonies. In every case the composer's approach, in new recordings, is not to be taken too literally. But to attempt to draw any systematic conclusions from that is to do what Wagner is at least half a dozen others do.

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Second Symphony through, despite are sometimes lacking in muscle, the gripping of heroism and line is always present. (AC)

**Tipsett Piano Sonatas 1-3**  
Nicholas Ustinov (Chandos 5186)  
\*\*\* £12.99

**Ustinov's disc cannot accommodate all four of Tipsett's piano sonatas, but his approach to the first three is so convincing that the disc should be given the opportunity to be the most intriguing of new piano recordings. The first Sonata is in some ways the most successful, and it is a pity that it is not the only one that has never had any pretensions as a sound world. Passages that appeared merely decorative this time into the when projected this Sonata suits Ustinov well too, even though he does not always make it together as well as he might. While in the Third Sonata, which translates the style of Beethoven's piano works into Tipsett's own musical thought, it makes light of the technical difficulties and allows the music to shine. (AC)**

**Horowitz's Musica Sacra**  
Concerto Italiano; Alessandrini (Opus 11) (Opus 110)  
\*\*\*

AFTER a series of outstanding discs devoted to Monteverdi's books of madrigals, Roberto Alessandrini and his group turn their attention to the liturgical works. Concerto Italiano makes their selection from a number of sources: the most substantial work is a set of Vespers, and the massive and famous setting from 1619 but also heard and performed with solo horns and phrygian antiphons. There is neither austere Magister here, nor, and then, in complete contrast, a work of moths that includes some very early changed settings from the early 17th century. The singing is superbly weighted and all manner of parts are clearly heard, and once again Alessandrini's interpretation is first-class, with the piano works into Tipsett's own musical thought, it makes light of the technical difficulties and allows the music to shine. (AC)

# Icy reception for blacks in Finland



A broken bust of the Soviet Union's founder, Lenin, lies in a rubbish tip in the war-ruined Chechen capital, Grozny, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: GLEB GARANICH

## Prosecutors appointed 'to protect Chirac'

Paul Webster in Paris

FRENCH opposition leaders yesterday condemned the appointment of two senior prosecutors by the Gaullist-led government, claiming that they had been chosen to stifle scandals threatening the president, Jacques Chirac.

dubious housing transactions by the Paris city council when the president was mayor. A member of the Gaullist RPR, Mr Benmakhlouf was appointed as an aide to the justice minister, Jacques Toubaon — a former secretary-general of the Gaullist party — after Mr Chirac's election win last year. Mr Benmakhlouf has now been attached to a Paris high court which will decide whether a number of leading figures — including the

mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi — should be prosecuted for alleged fraud connected with the financing of Mr Chirac's election campaign. Mr Benmakhlouf's immediate superior will be the appeal court's new prosecutor-general, François Burgelin, who was recently involved in clearing the prime minister, Alain Juppé, of allegations that he allotted cheap council housing to his family. As Mr Toubaon is a Paris city councillor as well as jus-

tics minister, the Socialist Party accused the government of "stubbornly pursuing the establishment of an RPR state". The opposition recalled that the Paris prosecutor, Gabriel Bestard — another RPR sympathiser — had recently shelved moves to prosecute Mr Tiberi for illegally spending about £200,000 of council money on renovating a flat for his son. Judges and lawyers backed Socialist accusations that the entire prosecuting hierarchy

was now occupied by pro-government officials and thus contradicted promises made by Mr Chirac to defend the judiciary's independence. The leftwing Syndicat de la Magistrature said the postings amounted to an attempt to ensure government control over scandals that threatened the RPR and Paris city hall. The government action was seen as a response to an anti-corruption campaign by examining magistrates investigating the RPR.

Joel Henley in Helsinki

JAMES was not looking for trouble. Sitting at the nightclub bar, he saw the white guys attack the two Somalis and watched, horrified, as the bouncers joined in with kicks and punches. Then they turned on him — "Hey, nigger" — and he was out on the pavement with the Somalis. Badly bruised, he was off work for two weeks.

Noor was wheeling his baby daughter down the street one afternoon last summer. Four or five men appeared out of nowhere saying nigger this, nigger that, before taking our money, you're stealing our women. Then one of the men pulled his little girl out of the pushchair by her hair.

Alma has had white girls spit in her face; Rachel cannot remember how often he's been hit. Redouan was put in hospital by two skinheads, and then lost the court case. Paula, a white girl married to a black man, remembers the middle-aged woman who helped lift her pram into the bus, then dropped it and swore when she saw the baby's colour.

Emerging from 800 years of foreign occupation and half a century of cold war isolation, whiter-than-white Finland, a European Union newcomer, is not finding it easy to welcome foreigners, particularly those whose skin colour is different from the Swedes, Russians and Estonians who make up the majority of its 5.1 million people.

"It's terrible," said James, aged 36, a dance teacher from London. "I thought these attitudes had died 30 years ago. They stare at you, they shout at you from cars, they assume you're a refugee. When they're drunk, they're un-

believable. In the end there's nowhere you can go except home." Dana, a tall 21-stone body-builder and former Chicago policeman, said he is "paranoid as hell". He lives in a neat Helsinki flat with his Finnish wife, Minna, and baby son. "I'm big, but when they're drunk I'm their worst nightmare come true. They have to fight or they're not Finnish men."

Finland has experienced little of the organised racial violence that has made headlines in Sweden and Germany. But, said Dana, black people face a climate of mistrust and ignorance. "People just stare, all the

time, then look away when you catch their eyes," he said. "And their comments! That's what finally gets you. I had a friend who was at the zoo with his family. A little Finnish kid came up and kicked his hand — like to see what it was made of."

There are about 10,000 or 12,000 black immigrants in Finland out of a total population of 5.1 million, said Haige Valta, head of the recently established European Union Migrants Forum in Helsinki. "Blacks have the hardest time," he said. "The country was effectively closed after the war, it was a very hard life here, and the Finns are worried for their jobs, their women — you name it."

Mr Valama, a leading member of Finland's 10,000-strong Romany community, believes the government is complacent and contributes to the problem. "There is structural racism in Finland, it runs right through the bureaucracy," he said. "Romanies have been here for 500 years, and our own candidate is still not allowed to head the committee for Romany affairs."

Nearly every black immigrant has a story of bureaucratic injustice. Housseine, a Moroccan interpreter at a refugee centre in the city of Tampere, said he knows of only one black person who has won a discrimination or abuse case. "Some policemen say quite openly: 'Fight back when you're attacked, but don't hang around till we arrive, because the law isn't on your side'," he said. "The visa people hold your passport for six months while they decide if you can stay, even if you have a Finnish wife. If you want to travel, sure, you can have your passport, but then the whole entry process starts over again."

Ole Norrback, the European affairs minister and one of the few politicians to argue for higher immigration, admits there are difficulties. "I don't think Finland is racist, but Finns are cautious about foreigners for good historical reasons. It's important for Finland that we have more foreigners, and we have no choice now we're in the European Union. But politicians have to lead the way and some are still opposed." He said that the government is not all that needs to change. The Golden ABC, a popular children's reader now in its 12th edition, shapes Finnish attitudes young. "The Negro washes his face," it teaches toddlers, "but it never gets any whiter."

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## Accused Serb 'not identified'

Ed Vulliamy in The Hague

A PROSECUTION witness testifying at The Hague today failed to identify the defendant Dusko Tadic as having been at the scene of the most brutal crime of which he is charged, the accused man's lawyer said yesterday.

The British counsel's claim rested on a controversial out-of-court briefing about evidence which had been given in a closed session, and on a day when Mr Tadic's defence stepped up its cross-examination with more aggressive questioning.

Further details of brutality at the Omarska concentration camp in Serb-held Bosnia were given by Husein Hodzic, a former employee at the mining complex, who said that Serbian soldiers on leave from the front were unleashed upon prisoners, free to kill and mutilate them.

The former mine supervisor also testified to seeing bodies loaded onto trucks after a massacre.

In a surprise interview given without court privilege, Steven Kay QC, Mr Tadic's counsel, reported details of a session held in camera on Wednesday, when a witness code-named "H" had given evidence.

"H" is an Omarska survivor who was forced to hold down a fellow inmate by the arms while another prisoner performed oral sex on him before biting off his testicles. He testified in camera, in order to protect his identity.

But Mr Kay said "H" had testified that "the witness said Tadic was not the man. He saw a man who ordered the attack and it was not Tadic. He failed to recognise Mr Tadic."

Mr Kay's disclosures are likely to provoke a serious row, with prosecution sources last night insisting: "This was a closed session. Moreover, this is some kind of information about the castration, which is only part of a count relating to the murder of four people."

During the morning before "H" had given his evidence, another witness to the castration and murders, Halil Mujkanovic, did identify Mr Tadic among the Serbian soldiers responsible for the brutal incident.

Mr Hodzic yesterday became the first former employee of the Omarska complex to give evidence, describing how weapons were handed out to Serbian workers on the day the mine was closed to be converted into a camp in May 1992.

He told the court how corpses were piled on to trucks at Omarska by a mechanical loader formerly used "for rocks and stones". The testimony corroborated reports, hitherto sketchy, of a massacre in Omarska in June 1992 of Muslims taken from the nearby village of Hambarine.

Mr Hodzic said that he had seen one of the larger trucks loaded with corpses on the tarmac at Omarska "when a number of new prisoners had arrived from Hambarine and neighbouring villages. I saw the truck loaded up after they arrived."

He described the last moments of Emir Karabasic, a man Mr Tadic is accused of killing in the same beating session as the castration who is said to have been the defendant's best friend.

Mr Hodzic, who had shared a sleeping area with Karabasic, said he had repeatedly insisted that Mr Tadic would

**The witness said Tadic was not the man. He saw a man who ordered the attack and it was not him. He failed to recognise Tadic.**

kill him because he had seen something he "was not supposed to have seen".

Mr Hodzic said: "The first basic thing was that the more you knew, the greater chance you had of being killed" in Omarska.

"So brother would counsel brother not to say anything about what they saw. That was how we felt — if someone saw a monstrous act, shortly afterwards he would disappear."

Mr Karabasic had been badly beaten before the day his name was called. "I'm done for," he had said, before leaving the room and never being seen again.

The court was shown a photograph from before the war of Karabasic and Mr Tadic together, arms around each other's shoulders.

## Britain presses UN to stop 'terrorists' gaining asylum

Richard Norton-Taylor

BRITAIN is pressing for a new United Nations convention which would refuse asylum to anyone planning or funding terrorism, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said yesterday.

"Political asylum should not be abused as a shelter for those engaged in terrorism," he said. Anyone engaged in such activities would not be entitled to the benefits of the UN convention on refugees.

The new convention, said Mr Howard, would declare planning, financing, and incitement to terrorism contrary to "the principles and purposes" of the UN. However, the idea — already canvassed by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary — has prompted concern among officials of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees who say it could cast its net too widely.

Mr Howard said yesterday he was "reasonably confident" of an agreement in the UN on the plan. The proposal is one of what Mr Howard described as three practical measures Britain will table at a meeting of foreign and interior ministers of the G7 industrial nations — plus Russia — in Paris on Tuesday.

Britain will also propose an extension of counter-terrorism "centres" in the EU to include the US, Canada, and Japan. The idea was to exchange expertise in different countries. For example, Mr Howard said, Britain's security and police forces had developed skills in "bomb rescue" techniques and in forensic science as a result of the IRA's activities.

France — singled out by Mr Howard as the country with which Britain had developed close co-operation — had experience with extreme Islamic groups, while Japan had experience of chemical attacks.

Mr Howard also confirmed that the government will extend the law of criminal conspiracy. It will be an offence to engage in conspiracy with others, or incite others, to commit terrorist offences abroad. Under existing law, the only overseas crime for which foreign residents can be prosecuted abroad is conspiracy to commit murder.

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## Portillo's political parcel

Something for everyone in the defence package

IT IS probably just as well for John Major that yesterday's £4 billion of defence orders was greeted as a victory for Michael Portillo, Secretary for Defence over Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor: if it had been the other way round, restless anti-Clarke backbenchers may have had apoplexy. As it turns out there is something in this for almost everyone. Portillo can claim he has proved his point that there are no more meaningful cuts to be made in spending on the forces thereby protecting his standing on the right as the custodian of defence. Kenneth Clarke loses the main battle but gets a consolation prize in the form of a theoretical right to a second chance to trim military spending later in the year plus a contribution to the PSBR from sales of defence housing. More to the point, the "feelgood factor" will receive its second flip this week — the other being the sharp revival of retail sales — as the £4 billion of contracts reappears in local papers up and down the country as a boost for jobs (even though very little of it will be spent for two years by which time it may well be Mr Blair footing the bill).

It is, of course, possible to argue that defence spending — which has been cut by almost 20 per cent in real terms since 1990/1991 — is still too high considering Britain's post-Cold war commitments. It is not obvious why we still need so many troops in Germany nor which enemy's submarines the revitalised Nimrods (based on technology for the Comet, the world's first jet plane) will be chasing. But within Mr Portillo's horizons this is a fairly shrewd distribution of work. He has got the last three big equipment decisions out of the way in time for MPs to go away on their holidays: they are the conventionally-armed stand-off missile (CASOM), the air-launched anti-armour weapon (AAAW) and the replacement

maritime patrol aircraft or Nimrod (RMPA). The fourth (for two naval assault ships) was settled earlier this month. The whole thing appears to have been a seriously competitive situation (for instance seven groups bid for the cruise contract) which almost certainly resulted in lower prices than otherwise — particularly in the final weeks when margins appear to have been clipped further by several hundred million pounds.

In industrial terms British Aerospace has got the lion's share of the contracts (ironically, at the expense of GEC which has long wanted to buy BAe) and since part of it involves cooperation with the French defence company, Matra — for whom President Chirac was lobbying — it looks as though the final political hurdle preventing a merger between Matra and BAe's dynamics division will be cleared. This will not only prove to his critics that Mr Portillo isn't always the Little Englander he often pretends to be, but — much more important — it will position Britain well in the emerging rationalisation of the European defence industry. The Americans, who have won quite a few juicy contracts recently, have been sent a clear signal that they can't have it all their own way and that the establishment of a strong European defence industry as a counter to the might of the United States is now a higher priority in British strategic thinking (both industrial and military). It's a tiny bit odd that a free-marketting, Euro-sceptic like Mr Portillo has fixed it for Europe against the US but as long as they don't try to pay in "euros" he will be able to live with it. So will Michael Heseltine, who was very active in the closing stages of the negotiations. For the man who quit the Cabinet over the Westland contract going to the Americans, this must be a doubly sweet solution. Few will disagree.



## Letters to the Editor

### The Ecu in your pocket

**C**HRISTOPHER Johnson Britain is better off in the long run (July 22) rightly berates party leaders for avoiding a debate on European monetary union. When such a debate begins, we can address some of his more doubtful claims. As one who questions the basis of a single currency, I hope that the debate will be much wider than hitherto.

Johnson says that ERM is likely to improve Britain's economic performance. It is generally conceded that there are downside risks to membership which cannot now be quantified, so this can only be a statement of faith. So is his assertion that "the single currency means joining a collective quest for better results... in economic growth, inflation, employment, public finance and trade," is he relying on some mythically superior, continental management techniques?

Johnson notes that Britain's economic performance is now lagging again after the brief resurgence which followed our leaving the ERM in 1992. He does not explain that that stimulus came from a collapse of government revenue in other member states which led to a devaluation of the Deutschmark, and that since then the Treasury has again tied its interest rate policy to tracking the mark. Because of our adverse trade balance this has involved maintaining a higher relative rate of interest. It has given overseas investors an advantage on which, among others, Japanese and Korean compa-

nies planning inward investment in Britain, have not been slow to act.

Can Johnson explain why he believes that "in a world of free capital movements one country cannot reduce the general level of bond interest by solitary fiscal virtue." In this connection, Japan and Switzerland, Germany and the US come to mind.

John Burke,  
 37 Oakhill,  
 Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6DY.

**C**HRISTOPHER Johnson ignores, as do most proponents of European monetary union, the fact that the effects of a single currency go far beyond the economy. They would transform the political structure of Europe. It would lead to us giving up independence as a nation, it's an illusion to think otherwise.

Any single currency would have to be managed centrally, and that would mean that the principal economic strategy of each European nation would also need to be determined centrally. It would be impossible to have a single currency while, at the same time, maintaining different economic programmes in each of the 15 member nations.

Not only will member nations have to transfer sovereignty over financial and wage policies, but it seems inconceivable, in the circumstances, that they would be able to hold onto autonomy over taxation policies.

John Burke,  
 21 Lovell Park Hill,  
 Leeds, LS7 1DF.

**A**LEX Brummer (Frankfurt threat to City hegemony, July 22) is mistaken to fear London banks would face difficulties in wholesale trading of Euros. This idea has been put about to intimidate those opposed to the UK joining ERM.

If the UK does not join ERM, the branches of UK banks in Germany, France and elsewhere cannot be excluded from Euro settlement services. Branches of French and German banks in London will trade Euros with other banks in London and elsewhere. Banks in London can settle on an agency basis with their own branches or correspondent banks in the Euro area. London's trading volumes in Euros, whether or not the UK is an ERM member, will be very important to the liquidity of Euro instruments.

It is inexplicable why ERM authorities should particularly fear the influence of London banks. The locality of settlement services and country of origin of major currencies has no effect on where dealing orders are contracted. Only the primary issue market will be restricted to the ERM area but this is very small compared to the secondary markets which can be 50 times larger.

Most of London's international trading in all markets is settled outside the UK and much of it generates order flow into other centres.

Robert McDowell,  
 2a Gresham Road,  
 Cambridge CB1 2ER.

### Down on the farm, it's time something stirred

**N**OW it is lamb's turn to be uneasy (EU seeks to ally sheep meat fears, July 24). The fact that scrapie-infected feed has been fed to pigs and poultry too means that pork and chicken could be next.

Douglas Rigg's response is, of course, to try to reassure us, but surely it is time that the Government stopped defending the indefensible. It needs to accept, as do the rest of us, that there is something seriously wrong with today's farming methods.

Herbivores are fed animal protein; there is selective breeding for rapid growth so that turkeys, for example, cannot walk properly, mate without assistance, or fly at all; and antibiotics are used as growth promoters, leading to disease becoming resistant to them. It is no wonder that

animals get ill when given this sort of treatment. The appalling overcrowded conditions in which many animals are kept means that disease can easily spread and mutate.

On grounds of animal welfare, as well as human health, we need to accept that the growth of factory farming over the last 50 years has been a mistake. Animals should be allowed to live natural lives again. This means no more selective breeding or genetic engineering, no more stalls, cages and overcrowded sheds, no more premature separation of the young from their mothers and no more feeding of inappropriate food.

The price of cheap meat is simply too high.

Richard Mountford,  
 76 Springfield Road,  
 Birmingham B14 7DY.

### Combined operations

**I**AM mystified by the sudden concern demonstrated by the Joint Consultants Committee over who does what in healthcare (Surgeons urge law on who does what ops, July 24) about who undertakes which tasks. Sadly, some of these innovative approaches have been subject to criticism from both occupational groups.

Isn't it time we moved away from such closed boundaries, welcomed innovations in practice, flushed out all the covert expertise and acknowledged hidden skills?

Barbara Vaughan,  
 Programme Director,  
 Nursing Developments,  
 King's Fund,  
 11-13 Cavendish Square,  
 London W1M 0AN.

examples of collaboration and skill-sharing in healthcare, particularly between doctors and nurses, which have been driven by a concern for patient need rather than a worry about who undertakes which tasks. Sadly, some of these innovative approaches have been subject to criticism from both occupational groups.

Isn't it time we moved away from such closed boundaries, welcomed innovations in practice, flushed out all the covert expertise and acknowledged hidden skills?

Barbara Vaughan,  
 Programme Director,  
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## Burundi's deepening crisis

Without political will it is impossible to impose peace

**BURUNDI** is on the edge of collapse. The Tutsi-dominated military yesterday seized power following the flight of President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya and the forced resignation of the Prime Minister, Antoine Nduwayo. Even before the coup, it was hard to distinguish political from military power in Burundi. Both Tutsi and Hutu groups are dominated by extremists. This vicious polarisation — and the spate of mass killings — has been exacerbated by instability in Rwanda. The refugee camps in northern Burundi housing some of the Rwandan Hutus responsible for the genocide of 1994 and the general anarchy of everyday Eastern Zaire have added to the tension. Burundi is not susceptible to "normal" political forces.

Equally, it is hard to distinguish reality from confusion in calls for an international peace keeping force. Last month, at a meeting with the international mediator Julius Nyerere, the President and Prime Minister agreed to a security force in Burundi. Both men were denounced by their political parties — and by the military leaders — triggering their *de facto* removal. The UN for months has talked of assembling a military force in Burundi but there is little sign of members committing troops. Certainly no one is willing to pay for what would be an extremely expensive undertaking. The only countries possibly willing to provide soldiers so far have been Chad, Malawi and Zambia — although the UN hopes

Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda will add their names to this list. Before an intervention force could realistically consider entering Burundi, as many as 20,000 troops would be needed.

It is hard to see this happening. Britain has refused — so far — to commit troops. The US, after having its fingers burned in Somalia, has made it clear that there will be no Americans on the ground. The French say they will do "no more, no less" than their partners — which does not seem to be very much. There have been suggestions that South Africa should lead the way, but this is extremely unlikely, particularly as Tutsis and Hutus alike have made it clear that peace keepers are not welcome in Burundi.

In the absence of sufficient manpower and funding, the Nigerian and Ghanaian force in Liberia, sent by the West African regional body ECOWAS, has been far from successful. As the crisis deepens in Burundi, the current summit in Abuja is looking at ways to prevent Liberia's catastrophe deepening. It is not an encouraging precedent. More than 150,000 people, mainly civilians, have died in Burundi since 1993. One hundred people are slaughtered every day by extremists from both sides. This would be called civil war except that the militia do not attack one another. The victims are those unable to protect themselves, the weakest and most vulnerable. In the absence of political will by the parties concerned to make peace, no outsiders can impose it.

## Justice for Julie

**MAY** I just say in answer to the carping chorus on your Letters page (July 25), that I am actually very much in favour of capital punishment for the killers of policemen. What I actually said was that, morally, the so-called "domestic" (how cosy?) murders of women and children were worse, taking into consideration the fact that a policeman is being paid by the state to put himself in the path of danger. But I'd still string up police-killers. Hang 'em all and let God sort it out, that's what I say.

Julie Birchill,  
 Brighton, Sussex.

**O**NCE again, Julie Birchill is tagged "the cleverest woman in Britain". What she really is is a journalist. And a good journalist, with a gift for expressing strong opinions in pithy, punchy prose. If she were really the cleverest woman in Britain, it would be a poor lookout for the women of Britain.

Baroness Robshaw,  
 90 Comber House,  
 Comber Grove,  
 London SE5 0LL.

**T**O read Julie Birchill is to read one of journalism's joyriders; doubtless gassy and furious from the driver's seat, but, to the casual observer, amiable and egocentric — whatever raw skill is in evidence.

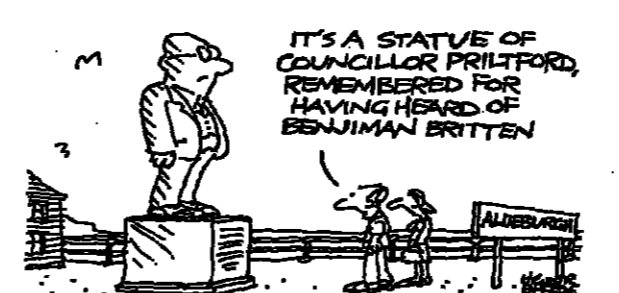
Patrick Maggs,  
 94 Earls Crescent,  
 Harrow, Middx HA1 1XN.

**T**HOUGHT the whole point of the nineties was that we didn't have to read the adolescent drivel of Julie Birchill anymore. Prejudice unassailed by experience is irritating in a 16-year-old; in a 36-year-old it's just sad.

David Henshaw,  
 177 Highbury Quadrant,  
 London N5 2IG.

**I**T'S such a shame. She really is a mad, nutty old bird now. Is there a fund? Should we send money?

J B MacCallally,  
 96 Romola Road,  
 London SE24 8AZ.



## Boring Ben and plain Jane

**W**HY should anyone feel surprised at the lack of enthusiasm on the part of Aldeburgh council to spend money on a bust commemorating the life of Benjamin Britten (July 24)? Members are merely living out their destiny, for did not Britten identify the small-minded absolutists in rural communities when commissioning the librettos for *Albert Herring* and *Peter Grimes*? The Aldeburgh public servants are simply slotting into Benjamin Britten's prototype characters.

Such a lack of appreciation of the genius of former local residents is not peculiar to Aldeburgh. As part of my work for the Jane Austen Society, I design and distribute posters publicising the July AGM at Chawton, Alton, and each year erect a small pantomime with the staff of Alton Library.

I deliver a poster with a request that be displayed to give adequate notice of the meeting.

One week later I revisit the library and the poster is not on display. When asked the reason for this, the assistant tells me there is no space. We walk to the boards and stand in front of several spaces. Jane Austen used the lending library in Alton, and no doubt would take delight in parodying such a paradox.

Susan McCartan,  
 Secretary,  
 The Jane Austen Society,  
 Carton House, Redwood Lane,  
 Medstead, Alton,  
 Hampshire GU34 5PE.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk.

## Here's to the red revolution

**I**S there no limit to the arrogance and stupidity of British Telecom? Far from patting themselves on the back for their feeble attempt at recreating our beloved red telephone boxes (Red reviv for call boxes, July 24), they should do the decent thing and restore all the original ones back to their rightful places and do away with the 80,000 monstrous usurpers.

Why BT ever got rid of them in the first place is beyond me.

They claimed that a) they would make access easier — they patently make no difference; b) by getting rid of the old ones this would somehow

make the telephone itself work better — demonstrably nonsense; c) they are easier to clean — so how come the old ones were never plagued with prostitutes' cards?

To add insult to injury, I read recently that the wretched woman at BT who designed these monstrosities was actually given a design award for her work. Which all goes to prove yet again that the rush to privatisation, far from improving customer choice and "empowering the customer" does the exact opposite.

Mary Stewart,  
 Clapton Passage,  
 London E5.

## Let's hear it for the thin blue line

**S**TEVE Bell's cartoon (July 12) depicts a police officer bawling a petrol bomber as Orange marchers parade in the background. The caption reads: "Pheew! For a while there I was beginning to lose touch with my sense of self, ye Fenian bastard".

Such a gross portrayal of a force which has suffered 297 deaths, approximately 10 per cent of the total casualties in Northern Ireland, and 7,819 injuries holding the line against extremists on both sides, is a grave disservice to the RUC.

In the context of the past 10 days or so, the police, supported by the Army, were caught in the middle of a situation in which they simply could not win. They were subjected to violence and intimidation; first, by extremists from the so-called loyalist community and, subsequently, by petrol-bombing

and rioting by extremists from the nationalist, or republican, community. The result so far has been 154 officers injured, 122 cases of intimidation, 12 cases of police families being forced to flee their homes, and more under threat awaiting re-housing.

However uncomfortable it was for the RUC to recognise that it had to reverse its decision to stop the Orange march in Drumcree, the reality is there was no choice. There was a serious threat of significant loss of life among Orangemen, police officers, soldiers and Catholic priests. Let alone elsewhere throughout Northern Ireland.

As always, the RUC was between a rock and a hard place.

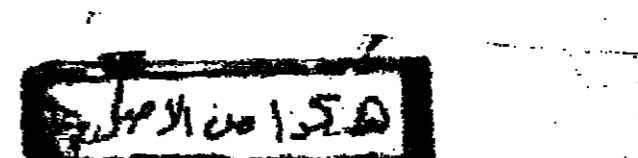
David M Hanna,  
 Chief Information Officer,  
 Royal Ulster Constabulary,  
 Brooklyn, Knock Road,  
 Belfast, Northern Ireland.

## A Country Diary

**NORTHUMBERLAND:** Rothbury, on the River Coquet, is the centre of some of the finest walks in this county. We tramped across Lordenshawes hill with a National Parks warden on the flanks of the Simonside hills, which rise to 1,400 feet at the highest point, and could see the outline of the medieval deer park, originally enclosed by 10-foot drystone walls. The structure of these hills differ from the Roman wall ridge and the Cheviot massif, which both have igneous intrusions and responsible for Simonside, which is composed of a sedimentary fall, sandstone rock. The warden showed us a 6,000-year-old pine cone found in peat in a bog on this hill and preserved in a jar, as well as a heolithic stone from an axe. The distinct cup and ring marks on boulders here are of neolithic origin but no-one can be cer-

tain what they signify — maps, fertility signs? A scar on the beautiful landscape west of Rothbury and Thropson is Biddleston quarry, currently employing 15 men and anxious to expand excavations. Admiralty Arch in London was built with red stone quarried here. "We are looking for a compromise," said the warden. "More large scars on this lovely landscape are unacceptable but the quarry reclamation plans." Ten years ago, we rode these Lordenshaw moors and acres of grassland, it had reverted to serious decline. Now the cattle and sheep taken off the hill 600 ewes. A gamekeeper controls the terrain and burns that sweeps of purple ling heather have regenerated, greatly enhancing the walk.

VERONICA HEATH





Jock Wallace

# Rangers' man of the match

**J**OCK WALLACE, the former manager of Glasgow Rangers and a clutch of other football clubs, has died aged 60 of Parkinson's disease. Of all the qualities of the man who led the Rangers resurgence to end Celtic's domination of Scottish football back in the 1970s, physical hardness was the most obvious.

A son of Wallyford, the East Lothian mining village where shoulders and spirits were developed to withstand a punishing existence, he went to local schools before going on to Musselburgh Grammar.

But it was in the army, as a non-commissioned officer in the King's Own Scottish Borderers, however, that Wallace's reputation as a fighting man was established. Stationed first in Northern Ireland and then in Malaya in the 1950s, he took part in jungle warfare during the insurgency and was fond of recalling that he lived off "monkey steaks" during long patrols.

Wallace had already had short spells as a goalkeeper at Blackpool and Workington before he joined the army and, on his return, he signed for Berwick Rangers (the town was the headquarters of the KOSB). From there, he moved to Airdrie, West Brumwich Albion, Bedford Town and Hereford, before returning to Berwick.

It was during his second tour of duty with Berwick that he became celebrated as the architect of the most famous Scottish Cup upset of modern history. With Wallace as player-coach, Berwick beat Glasgow Rangers 1-0 in the

first round at Shielfield Park in January 1967.

Soon after, he was appointed assistant manager of Hearts of Midlothian. In April 1970, he became "chief trainer and coach" of Rangers under manager Willie Waddell, who had succeeded to the job only a few months earlier. Within two years, Wallace helped the Ibrox club to their only European success, a 3-2 victory over Moscow Dynamo in the Cup Winners' Cup final in Barcelona in 1972. He became team manager immediately afterwards, with Waddell.

**The fans loved Big Jock, whom they rightly identified as one of themselves, a rough diamond with a gruff tongue**

promoted to general manager. Rangers won the Scottish Cup the following season and, in 1975, their first League championship in 11 years. This triumph ended Celtic's monopoly of the Scottish League, which had embraced nine successive championships from 1966.

Wallace took Rangers to the treble of League, Scottish Cup and League Cup in 1976 — this also made them the first winners of the newly-formed Premier Division — and he repeated the feat two years later. It was at the end of his second treble-winning season that he left, following a

dispute over his salary, for Leicester City.

He returned to manage Motherwell before being recalled to the Rangers job in 1983. But that lasted only until 1986, when he was replaced by Graeme Souness. He then had further spells in management, with Seville in Spain and Colchester in England.

Wallace accepted with typical barrack-room philosophy the trials that cropped up in the course of a manager's life. "Ach," he would say, "if ye're no' marchin', ye're fightin'!"

He is survived by his wife, Daphne, son John and daughter Karen.

Patrick Glen

Brian Wilson adds: Jock Wallace epitomised another, less sophisticated era in the fortunes of Rangers Football Club when transfer fees were in six figures and only those of a Protestant disposition were deemed suitable to don the Royal Blue.

The fans loved Big Jock, whom they rightly identified as one of themselves, a rough diamond with a gruff tongue but a Rangers man through and through. Any doubts about this were removed when, at his first supporters rally as manager, he was asked to say a few words and instead led the singing of *The Sash*.

I recall a post-match press conference at which Wallace's eye alighted on an unfamiliar reporter representing a Glasgow newspaper who had been ill-advised enough to wear a khaki anorak rather than

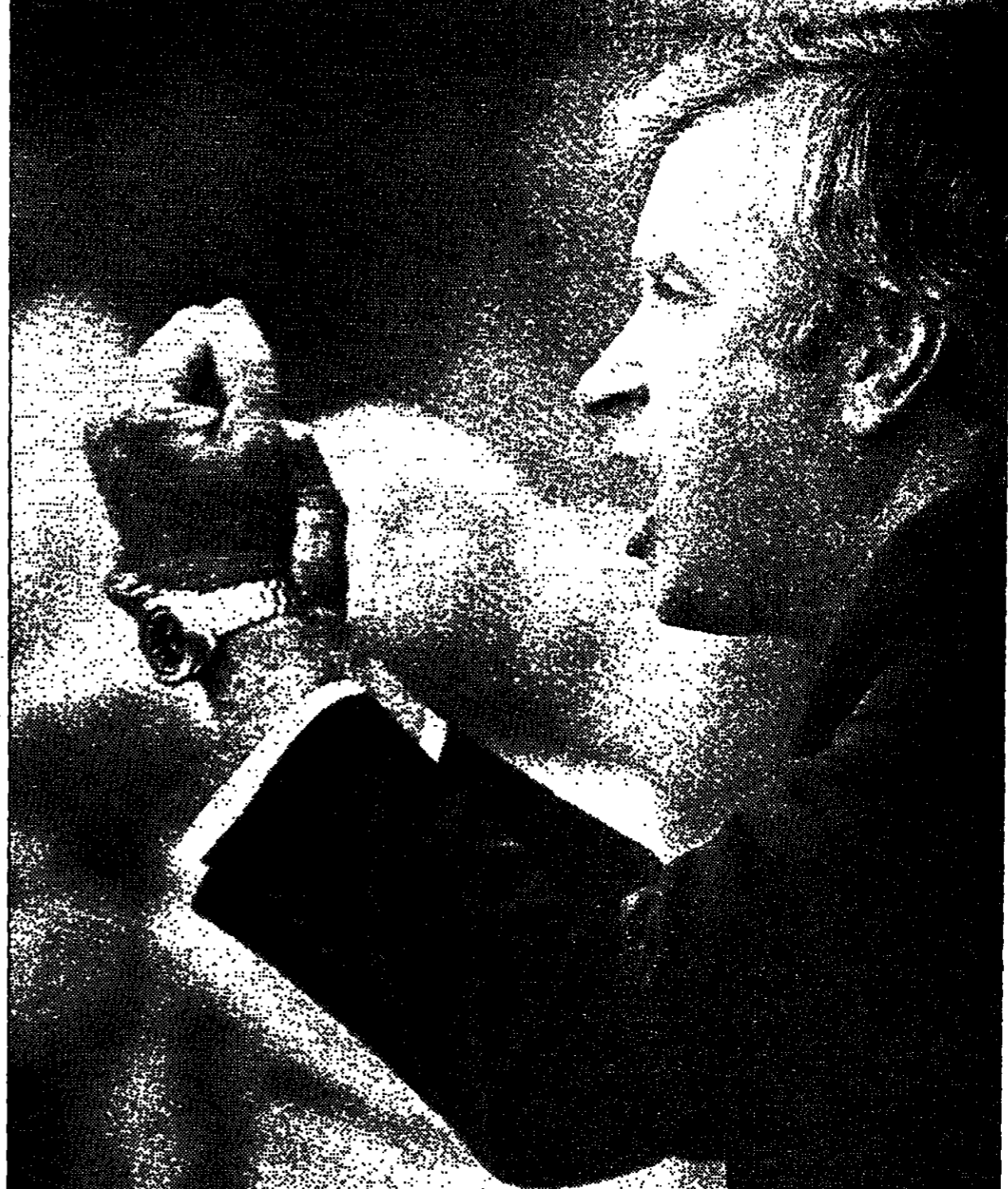
more conventional press box attire. "Who are you from?" the manager demanded. "The IRA?" Jock Wallace and the sand dunes of Gullane were for long linked in the minds of the Scottish football public. A generation of Rangers players endured the rigours of a training regime which many thought more appropriate to preparations for jungle warfare in Malaya.

When he stepped up from coach at Ibrox to replace Willie Waddell as manager, Rangers were desperate to emerge from the shadow of Celtic's record-breaking nine League titles in a row, under Jock Stein. The faithful were inordinately grateful when he restored the club's dignity with two "rebels".

His second stint at Ibrox was not a success, although his personal popularity with the supporters survived largely intact. The game was changing fast and there was no prospect of Wallace being retained when David Holmes took over as chairman and set about transforming the club's image and aspirations.

Football fans of all persuasions were saddened by the decline of Wallace's health in recent years. For him, trading was one part of a man; he was also a big football man and that is appreciated across the board. Even those whose sympathies were least favourable to Rangers could forgive Wallace anything for the memory of Berwick!

Jock Wallace, football manager, born September 6, 1935; died July 24, 1996.



Jock Wallace... Architect of the most famous Scottish Cup upset of modern history. PHOTOGRAPH: BOB THOMAS

Tamara Danz

# The voice for lost children

**T**AMARA Danz, who has died aged 43, was East Germany's most successful rock singer in the 1980s. In songs such as *Die Perse* (Far Away), *Bene lo di d'Amore* and *Verlorene Kinder* (Lost Children), she articulated the frustration of a generation of easterners who had lost faith in the ability of communism to reform itself. Though she took part in the protests that led to the collapse of the German Democratic Republic, she was disappointed with the process of reunification that left many easterners feeling alienated.

Born into a diplomatic family in the Thuringian town of Breitenungen in 1952, Danz spent much of her childhood abroad, acquiring a command of foreign languages shared by few East Germans. She always wanted to sing but, in the GDR of the 1970s, becoming a rock star was not seen as a serious career choice.

Danz studied philology and trained as an interpreter but quickly rejected the prospect of a lifetime "translating what other people say even if it's complete nonsense".

She worked as a backing singer in a succession of third-rate bands before joining Silly, a rock band formed in 1978 to circumvent the government-sponsored cultural network. The band refused to appear at party events and soon won a large following for its sophisticated rock melodies and subtle, ambiguous lyrics. Danz was voted East German female singer of the year a number of times and annually received up to 13,000 fan letters. Audiences in packed halls

throughout East Germany would often join in as she sang *Alles wird besser, aber nichts wird gut* (Everything will get better but nothing will be good) in her unmistakable throaty voice, somewhere between Marianne Faithfull and Janis Joplin.

*They would love to flee to the warm countries, the lost children, in the streets of Berlin* she sang, capturing the silent yearning of young East Germans to escape the prison their country had become.

The rise of home-grown rock musicians during the 1980s was instrumental in creating a new youth culture in the GDR which responded to state repression by ignoring it and concentrating on non-political private activities. Danz, who said she lost faith in the GDR after East German soldiers helped to crush the Prague Spring in 1968, was one of the first artists to join the 1989 anti-government protests. She signed a resolution calling for reform and took part in a concert in support of dissidents that October.

Like most easterners, Danz rejoiced when the Berlin Wall fell, but she soon became disillusioned with the new Germany, complaining that easterners "have to apologise for breathing".

The band, Silly, failed to make an impact on a western audience that had little patience with complicated lyrics that carried a message. Dreaming of the chance to flee to a warmer country held little excitement in a society in which most people take three foreign holidays a year.



Tamara Danz... East Germany's most popular rock singer

Danz turned her concerts into protests against the destruction of East German identity and the exclusion of easterners from the process of shaping the new Germany. She also criticised the meekness with which easterners accepted the new order, as she sang in her 1992 song *Halloween in East Berlin*:

*The Osses are dumb and crazy from junk and booze when they come out of their coma then comes the cold horror they beat themselves over the head with their Stasi files*

Dennis Staunton

Tamara Danz, singer, born December 14, 1952; died July 22, 1996.

Richard Day

# A good man in Africa

**R**ICHARD DAY, who has died of a brain tumour aged 48, was a pioneer of the alternative trade movement, although he would have denied that what he was doing could be thought of as anything so pretentious. On such a small scale, he said, it could not be seen as an alternative to the mainstream. For him, trading was one part of a man; he was also a big football man and that is appreciated across the board. Even those whose sympathies were least favourable to Rangers could forgive Wallace anything for the memory of Berwick!

*While we're out in the middle of the square they slaughter the last slaughter*

Danz became ill with breast cancer last year and, after undergoing three unsuccessful operations, she refused any further treatment. She died in Berlin on Monday, four months before she was due to marry fellow musician Uwe Hassbecker.

Dennis Staunton

Tamara Danz, singer, born December 14, 1952; died July 22, 1996.

competition, with some success. Back in England, he was intimately involved in the founding of Twin and Twin Trading, which had Greater London Council funding for the first years of its operation. He became a development officer and then the director, but his influence on Twin's work was greater than any administrative position would indicate.

**B**y CARRYING out water engineering consultancies in African countries, he established Twin's reputation for expertise. And by ensuring that Twin supplied appropriate equipment with technical back-up for its own and other aid projects in Mozambique, Senegal, Sahrawi and elsewhere, he gave Twin Trading a record of honest and efficient dealing. The London-based agencies providing relief in the Eritrean war said his advice was indispensable. His insistence on customised equipment for different situations was an innovation on a continent littered with abandoned, unsuitable equipment. He worked with small-scale



Richard Day... Fair trader

coffee farmers in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and cocoa farmers in Ghana, producing for export. Not only did he establish commercially successful delivery systems, he also helped in the development of democratic village societies which took the marketing of their crops into their own hands. The success of KKL, the Ghanaian small farmers' company to which Day gave so much time, is a memorial to his work.

The basis of Richard Day's work was the creation of an "economy of trust" which could replace normal commercial practices of supervision and control. Failures were never an occasion for giving up and turning to another supplier, as most commercial firms would do, but for learning the lessons and working together to turn failure into success. This was no airy-fairy dream but a severely practical task, to which he brought his experience and innovative capacities.

In the last four years, he took an Open University course which led to an MBA, with distinctions, and which he regarded as an essential part of his work. All his MBA studies related to problems raised by his activities and so did the Manchester University development studies course on to which he subsequently enrolled.

They would think his work had failed if the organisations he worked with could not survive without him. Yet all who knew him will miss his knowledge, wisdom, humour and comradeship. He leaves behind a partner and a much-loved son, Thomas.

Michael Barratt Brown

Richard Day, engineer and development expert, born April 23, 1948; died July 22, 1996.

Birthdays

Pauline Clare, chief constable, Lancashire, 48. Blake Edwards, film director, 74; Susan George, actress, 46; Sir Peter Hall, diplomat, ambassador to Argentina, 58; Mick Jagger, Rolling Stone, 53; Barbara Jefford, actress, 66; Stanley Kubrick, film producer and director, 68; Danny La Rue, female impersonator, 68; Dr Brian Mawhinney, MP, chairman, Conservative Party, 56; Helen Mirren, actress, 50; Sally O'Sullivan, editor-in-chief, Good Housekeeping, 47; Lance Percival, entertainer, 63; Sir Keith Peters, Regius prof of physics, University of Cambridge, 68; Jason Roberts, actor, 74; Bernice Rubens, novelist, 68; Stephen Whittle, chief adviser, editorial policy, BBC, 51; Dr Anne Wright, vice-chancellor, Sunderland University, 50.

Death Notices

**BLACKBAY** Peter Norman of Wallingford died suddenly in his 75th year while on holiday in Polyan on 23rd July 1996. Father of Dorothy, Olive and Stephen; grandfather of John, Judith, Peter and William; widower of Daphne; three sons; one daughter; and one grandchild. Buried at St. Mary's Church, Wallingford on Wednesday, July 24th at 11.00. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Mission House, 100, Cook Lane, Wigan WA2 5HT. Enquiries to Banks Funeral Service, Tel. 01928 622272.

**SWINE** Henry Thomas Marshall of Upton, Oxford, died in hospital aged 92 years. The funeral will take place at 11.00 am at Methodist Church, Uptonland on Wednesday, July 24th at 11.00. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Mission House, 100, Cook Lane, Wigan WA2 5HT. Enquiries to Banks Funeral Service, Tel. 01928 622272.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Rodney Martin whose life was tragically cut short by medical accident on 24th July 1996. Our feelings for the unforgettable love and loss will still be felt. The Martin Family.

Marriages

**Mr P.A. Cox and Miss J.C. McQuiggart.** The marriage took place on 26th July 1996 at 11.00 am at St. Mary's Church, Wallingford. Officiated by Rev. Canon John Campbell. Photographs by Mrs. J. Campbell.

**Mr. R. Day and Miss J. Day.** The marriage took place on 26th July 1996 at 11.00 am at St. Mary's Church, Wallingford. Officiated by Rev. Canon John Campbell. Photographs by Mrs. J. Campbell.

Jackdaw



Chill out

I ARRIVED at Leary's house to find an ambulance outside his house, being loaded with his cryonic coffin. It turned out that a short time before, a team from the CryoCare Foundation — the outfit that was to undertake the freezing and preservation of Leary's brain upon his death — had come in to remove all its equipment.

For some time tension had been building up between CryoCare and Leary's crew. CryoCare felt that Leary's folks had shown disrespect for the equipment by decorating it with lights and toys, and also believed that

some people at the house had been trying to keep CryoCare's technicians away from Leary. More important, CryoCare's Mike Darwin had grown alarmed about Leary's pronouncements on his plan to commit suicide live (so to speak) on the World Wide Web. Darwin did not feel that his organisation (whose brochure bears the motto, Many are cold, but few are frozen) could afford to be involved in what he termed a potential crime scene or that it should leave its equipment in a house where illegal drugs may be present or used.

For their part, the Learys felt that the CryoCare people put off by what they regarded as CryoCare's ghoulish interest in obtaining the head of Timothy Leary. The problem was exacerbated when they learned that a CryoCare official who would be involved with the decapitation and freezing process, Charles Platt, had an assignment to write about the operation for Wired magazine. (Platt had also been sending e-mail to various parties, expressing his disdain for the Leary crew

and his impatience with Leary for not dying as soon as had been expected. "What insane will to live," he wrote in one letter.)

In any event, CryoCare's actions left Leary facing a decision: he could either sign on quickly with another cryonics outfit or accept that his death would be final — that his brain would not be preserved for some indeterminate future attempt at reanimation. In the end he decided against cryonics. "I have no real desire to do it," he told me. "I just felt it was my duty to smart dying," the process of smart dying."

Leary's decision was not a small thing for him. He told me once that he did not believe anything survived beyond death, that if we possess a soul, then the soul is our mind, and the brain is the soul's home. By forgoing cryonics, Timothy Leary decided that even if he could, he would not return. His immortality, instead, would be his work and his legend, and it was his hope that these things would find an ongoing life on the World Wide Web site that had become his most prized

dream in his final season. *The American way of death, 1996: Mikal Gilmore witnesses a glitch in Timothy Leary's plans to become a 'Cold Lazarus', Rolling Stone.*

Milky ways

SIR, You published a photograph of Mr Heathcoat-Amory at his breakfast table (July 24). Can any person who permits a milk bottle on his table be considered fit to hold office?

In the circumstances, his resignation seems appropriate.

MICHAEL BAULF, Tonbridge, Kent

*That's Tonbridge not Tunbridge. A Daily Telegraph reader spots the real rot at the heart of Tory rule.*

Really yummy?

Tasty Insect Recipes  
Banana Waffle  
● 1 cup shortening  
● 1 cup sugar  
● 2 bananas, mashed  
● 2 cups flour  
● 1 tsp soda  
● 1 tsp salt

- 1/4 cup chopped nuts
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup dry roasted army worms
- Mix together all the ingredients. Bake in greased loaf pan at 350 degrees for about 1 hour.
- Rootworm Beetle Dip
- 2 cups low-fat cottage cheese
- 1/4 tsp lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons skimmed milk
- 1/2 cup reduced calorie mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon onion, chopped
- 1/4 tsp dill weed
- 1/4 tsp Beau Monde
- 1 cup dry-roasted rootworm beetles
- Blend first three ingredients. Add remaining ingredients and chill.
- Chocolate Chipotle Chip Cookies
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla

- 2 eggs
- 1/4 ounce chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1/2 cup dry-roasted crickets
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In large bowl, combine butter, sugar and vanilla; beat until creamy. Beat in eggs. Gradually add flour mixture and insects; mix well. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop by rounded measuring teaspoons on to ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes.



Dead cool... Rolling Stone

Insect recipes at: [www.suitestate.edu/misc/insects/ASFOOD.html](http://www.suitestate.edu/misc/insects/ASFOOD.html). Jackdaw has not tested them, so on your head be it...

Cost of peace

Payments for loss of: Both arms or both hands, or both legs or both feet, or sight in both eyes: \$30,000. Hearing: \$17,500. Sight in one eye (presuming sight in other eye is normal): \$12,000. Arm (at shoulder): \$30,000. Arm (at or below wrist): \$28,000. Hand (at or below wrist): \$27,000. Thumb: \$11,000. Index finger: \$7,000. Middle finger: \$5,500. Ring finger: \$2,500. Fourth finger: \$1,500. Leg (above the knee): \$20,000. Leg (at or below the knee): \$18,000. Foot (at or below ankle): \$14,000. Big toe: \$2,500. Any other toe: \$200. Compensation for the United Nations pays to soldiers injured in Iraq's first military actions, reproduced in *Herp*.

Aliens

Alien invasion Dicks are a red herring. America has already been conquered, brainwashed, and taken over by a being from another planet. I have my doubts about whether men are from Mars and Women are from Venus, but I feel almost certain that you, John Gray — tireless peddler of Mars-Venus books, tapes and infomercials — are speaking from Uranus.

My theory is that you've come from that planet of frozen gas, to sow discord between men and women on earth by convincing them never to actually take the other at their word, never to believe that they might mean what they say.

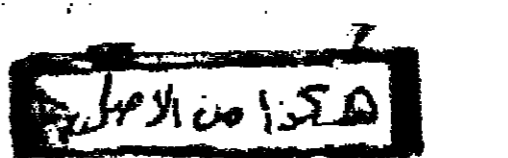
Ron Rosenbaum brings a bunsell down to earth in the *New York Observer*.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail [jackdaw@guardian.co.uk](mailto:jackdaw@guardian.co.uk); fax 071-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Desmond Christy

The shadow and witho  
Fight  
talk fr  
amba  
Mr Br

Lloyds T



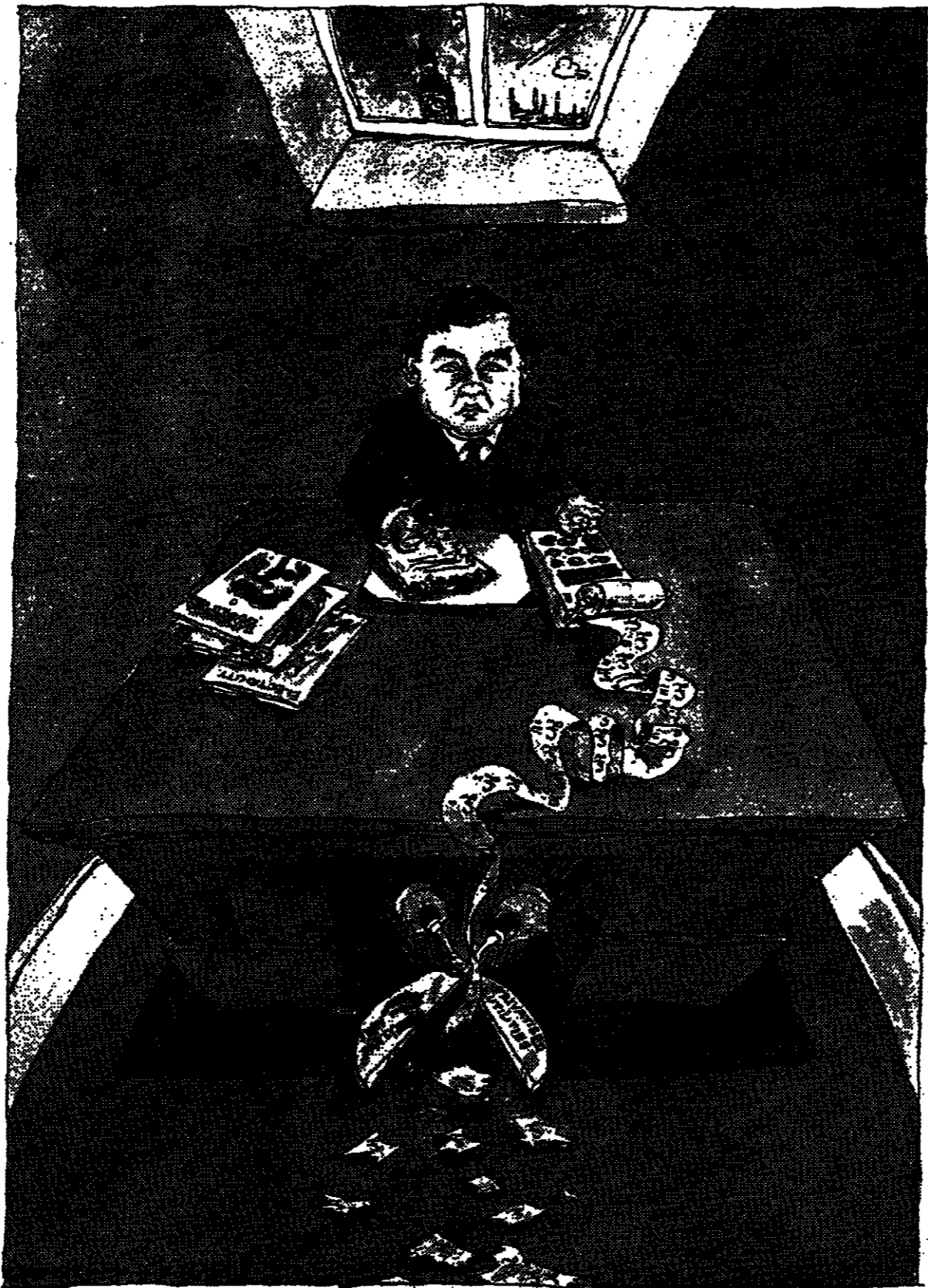


The shadow chancellor is under siege from enemies within and without. He talks to LARRY ELLIOTT and MICHAEL WHITE

Fighting talk from embattled Mr Brown

THE results of the shadow cabinet elections tell their own story: this has not been a happy summer for Gordon Brown. At Labour's annual Westminster beauty contest on Wednesday night, he dropped from third to 14th place.

Attacked by his own left-wingers over his clumsily presented plans to target child benefit in favour of poorer 16-to-18-year-olds, he was also criticised for what some saw as a lacklustre performance in the end-of-term debate on the economy against Kenneth Clarke.



been concentrated on tackling the consequences of poverty, compensating people for poverty: a really radical programme attacks the root causes of poverty.

Labour intends to achieve this by using the windfall tax to get 250,000 people under 25 off benefit and into work, and by the now-notorious idea that child benefit should be abolished for the over 16s and the money used for an educational maintenance allowance for the most needy.

In other words, despite all the brouhaha, it is classically redistributive. Post-16 child benefit is only paid to those families whose children are still at school, and this tends to benefit the better-off.

Lamont pulled off in 1992: fudged figures which led to huge tax increases. He wants an independent audit of the Treasury's books to ascertain what is cyclical and what is structural, and why VAT and corporation tax receipts have fallen so unexpectedly.

MPs urge clamp on petrol firms

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

MPs called on competition authorities yesterday to clamp down on petrol companies, amid warnings of some retailers being squeezed and forecourt prices rising, particularly in rural areas.

After the latest in a string of inquiries into the petrol market, the Commons trade and industry select committee concluded that there was no case for a general reference of the industry to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

But MPs said that the sector required constant monitoring by the Office of Fair Trading and called for the Government to give the OFT greater powers to investigate and stamp out any anti-competitive abuses.

MPs acting in an anti-competitive manner. The MPs say that the committee has repeatedly called for the Government to shake-up competition rules and note that it has recently signalled its willingness to do so.

Pump up the volume

Retail market shares, January 1996 % of retail sites supplied

Table showing retail market shares for oil companies and other wholesalers. Shell: 12.4, Esso: 12.4, BP: 8.5, Texaco: 7.4, Conoco (Jel): 5.4, Mobil: 4.1, Elf: 3.9, Fina: 3.0, Total: 2.0, Muncio: 1.0, Gulf: 1.0. Other wholesalers: Hypemart: 4.0, Sava: 5.0, Kuwait: 1.0, Peepol: 1.0, Others: 18.8.

News in brief

Britannia to review 20,000 policies

BRITANNIA Building Society yesterday began a review of 20,000 life and investment policies after the suspension of almost one-fifth of its sales force.

Rebel Names urged to settle

ONE of Lloyd's of London's most active adversaries — the Feltrim Names Association — was yesterday advised by its chairman to accept the insurance market's £3.1 billion settlement offer.

Scottish TV confident

SCOTTISH Television was last night confident its £120 million bid for Caledonian Publishing, owner of the Glasgow Herald, would escape monopoly hurdles.

Lloyds TSB will show you can still bank on loans

Outlook

Sarah Whitebloom

WHO would have thought it? Certainly not three of our Big Four high street banks. Retail banking is emerging as the glamour end of the market.

were setting up prestigious City operations and talking about becoming international financial institutions. Lloyds plugged away at what it knew best — retail banking.

been regarded as poor-quality income — some years you lose it. But this reporting season, more than ever, the City is looking to retail earnings to provide real growth.

THE BANK ACCOUNTS

Bank	Interim Pre Tax Profit £m	Estimated	Last year
Abbey National	544	543	483
Barclays	1,225	1,195	1,125
Lloyds TSB Group	1,140	1,021	1,021
NatWest	225	272	272
WSSC Holdings	2,105	1,737	1,737
Standard Chartered	385	318	318

this will be welcomed, it brings fears of another bad debt cycle. With new control systems in place, the banks are more confident about loan quality, but there are fears that this will suffer in the scramble to lend.

again, Lloyds is perceived to have been more clever than the rest. Its strategy of investing in brand names such as C&G makes attempts to cross-sell easier and brings in additional customers.

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Finance Guardian

Company serves DTI with writ and threatens to withhold payments as North Sea revenues dispute worsens

British Gas sues in tax row

Chris Berris
Business Correspondent

THE Government was yesterday embroiled in an unprecedented legal battle with British Gas and 26 oil companies over £1 billion.

British Gas also announced that it would withhold future tax worth about £30 million a year arising from the disputed contracts.

The department said it did not believe British Gas's interpretation of the law was correct. The Government had to reserve its right to raise the money from the oil and gas industry.

Last year the tax — the gas levy — raised £150 million and is set at 4p per therm. Over ten years, BG has paid £3.2 billion to the Exchequer through the levy which was imposed on gas originally exempt from petroleum revenue tax.

Should it win, BG would win back £1 billion and boost profits at its trading arm, British Gas Energy, which is to be formed when the company splits in two next spring.

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Notebook
Trade motors in right direction

Trade motors in right direction



Edited by Mark Milner

FORGET inflation. For as long as anyone can remember it has been the balance of payments that has been the Achilles' heel of the British economy. Now, it appears, all that is changing.

TO ministers, this comes as no surprise. It is, they claim, the result of the massive inward investment into Britain over the past 10 years, which has boosted exports of cars and other consumer goods.

Up to a point this is true. The deficit in cars, which was running at a whopping £300 million a month during the Lawson boom of the late 1980s, has been halved to £150 million in the latest three months.

But not so fast. The pick-up since the winter reflects an abnormal pattern of trade around the turn of the year, and the comparison with the late 1980s doesn't look quite so clever when car components are taken into account.

Sure, we are exporting more cars. But let's be clear: these vehicles are largely made up of parts previously imported. Of course, the picture may improve as the European markets pick up or if the Toyota effect trickles down through the motor industry.

More to the point, that disappointment brought a swift and, for German exporters at least, unwelcome response in the shape of a fall in the dollar against the mark — down more than a penny at DML4750 on one stage.

BRITISH Gas is pretty good at picking fights. It is currently at loggerheads with its TransCo pipelines business and is facing the threat of referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It is at war with North Sea oil and gas producers over £40 billion worth of long-term "take or pay" gas contracts.

As if that were not enough, yesterday it threw out a legal challenge to the Government over the payment of tax on North Sea gas. The numbers

involved are impressive — the company is reserving its right to reclaim a third of a £3 billion bill for a gas levy paid over the past 10 years.

A clearly-surprised Department of Trade and Industry is resisting the claim. Despite denials the affair may not be entirely unrelated to the "take and pay" impasse or at least may not proceed separately from it.

To be fair, British Gas's troubles are not all self-inflicted. It signed up for the "take-or-pay contracts" at a time when it was still a monopoly supplier, with the obnoxious protection that came with it.

But the company does have a very full plate. It is in the final throes of splitting into two divisions: British Gas Energy. It is preparing for full competition in 1998. Neither is an easy task.

New executives — younger and more attuned to the market — have been brought in to tackle the challenges facing the company. They will win few plaudits for picking fights unless they can start winning a few, too.

Unhelpful surprise
NOT for the first time the Bundesbank has successfully ambushed financial markets. Indeed, catching the markets on the hop has become such a favourite Bundesbank pastime that the biggest surprise is that anyone should be surprised.

Nonetheless, yesterday's decision by the German central bank's ruling council to leave the repo rate unchanged at 3.30 per cent — in the face of expectations that it would either reduce it or post a variable tender to allow the markets to push rates down — does not solve the German central bank's conundrum about the recent strength of the mark against the dollar.

Market practitioners may feel a grudging admiration for the Bundesbank's habitual determination not to be pushed around — though yesterday at least some analysts were expressing the view that they had been misled by recent pronouncements from some Bundesbank council members.



Away draw... John Moores, 67, eldest son of the late Sir John Moores — creator of the football pools — yesterday announced his retirement as a Littlewoods non-executive director in October, fifty years after joining the family firm. His elder sister, Lady Grantham, and her son, James Sussman-Taylor, remain as family representatives on the board. PHOTOGRAPH: PETER BYRNE

Hays holds merger talks with Salvesen

Paul Murphy

THE £2.5 billion merger of two of Britain's best-known business services groups, Hays and Christian Salvesen, was under discussion yesterday.

Hays, run by Ronnie Frost, was forced to declare its interest by the City's Takeover Panel following a sharp rise in the price of Salvesen's shares.

to supermarkets, jumped 60p to 340p, valuing the Edinburgh-based firm at just over £1 billion.

Export boom cuts UK trade gap to £171m

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

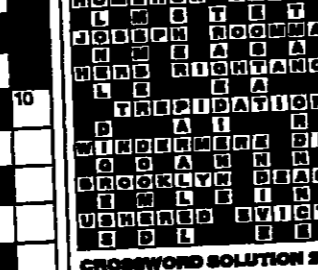
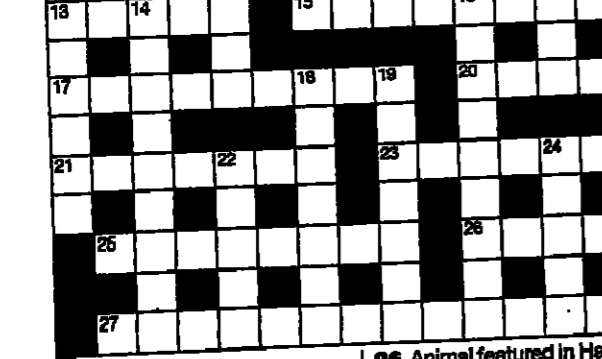
BOOMING exports to continental Europe have trimmed the UK's trade deficit and given a fresh dose of optimism to hard-pressed manufacturers.

June — compared with £564 million the previous month.

Jan Leng, the Trade Secretary, said: "I am delighted to see exports to Europe doing so well. Exports in the last three months have been in record levels."

Guardian Crossword No 20,715

Set by Gordius



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,714

- Across
1 Cecil and Frank in Wessex (5,5)
8 A man is bound to take her niece's part (5)
9 Wisdom of Troy, for example? (8)
11 Reaction of French at destruction of Paris? ... (7)
12 ... Free French article written about the battle (7)
13 Breed a Calm (5)
15 Well used equipment (5,4)
17 Nude actor should be primed before putting this on (5)
20 Mood of the church, always far from 11 (5)
21 Frank is a versatile artisan (7)
23 It's not hard to see this isn't Howard's Way (7)
25 It's a good car — take it out on test (8)

- Down
14 Contract in choppers (5)
16 Is he fond of his relations? (9)
18 Instrument used by Captain in vocal number (7)
19 Stories about New Testament topic (7)
22 Expedition on which explorer sets out, accompanied by trotters? (5)
24 Remove from script but leave as in before (5)
26 Animal featured in Hensel and Gretel (5)
27 Top brass encourage one engaged in local operations (7,7)

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Building society regulator wants prudence, says RACHEL BAIRD

BUILDING societies were warned yesterday to be more vigilant about checking borrowers' ability to repay mortgages, especially the less profitable discount loans.

from £19 billion in 1994. However, building societies increased their share of the market from 72 per cent in 1994 to 94 per cent in 1995.

A fall in provisions and losses of about a quarter, plus a higher net interest margin, helped building societies to a retained surplus of 0.78 per cent of mean assets, up from 0.74 per cent in 1994.



conversion to PLCs and two others had agreed to bank takeovers, which will cut the assets in the building societies sector by about 60 per cent, according to the commission.

Commenting on the commission's warnings, UBS building societies analyst, Rob Thomas, said societies were placing prudent limits on discounted and fixed-rate mortgage lending.

In its annual report for the year to March 1996, the Building Societies Commission said it expects societies to "set prudent limits" to discounted and fixed-rate mortgages. Some societies, including Cheltenham & Gloucester and Britannia, have already cut back on discount deals.

£5m wiped off BT profits as redundancy costs take toll

Simon Beavis

BRITISH Telecom, still searching for an agreement with its regulator over future price caps to avoid a clash with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, reported a £5 million drop in first-quarter profits to £869 million yesterday as higher redundancy costs took their toll.

to investigate anti-competitive behaviour by BT. The regulator has given the company until next Friday to accept the proposal but there is speculation that the Department of Trade and Industry might broker a solution by promising new legislation.

BT has made it clear that the powers being sought by the watchdog will leave it without a right of appeal but refused to say yesterday if it was any closer to settling the dispute.

The company, which axed 800 jobs during the period, recorded the fall in profits despite a 4.1 per cent increase in sales to £3.64 billion and said it reflected the impact of tough price controls on its regulated activities.

BT said that price caps had knocked £130 million off sales in the quarter but that this was offset by a boom in the sale of mobile phones. The group said redundancy costs for the whole year would total around £400 million.

Computer group IBM gave a powerful lift to Wall Street yesterday when it reported better than expected second quarter profits of \$1.34 billion.

Table with columns: COUNTRY, RATE, COUNTRY, RATE, COUNTRY, RATE. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, USA.

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Handwritten note: 1520